PRESENTED BY
kakifly
K-ON!
1

K-ON!
PRESENTED BY
kakifly
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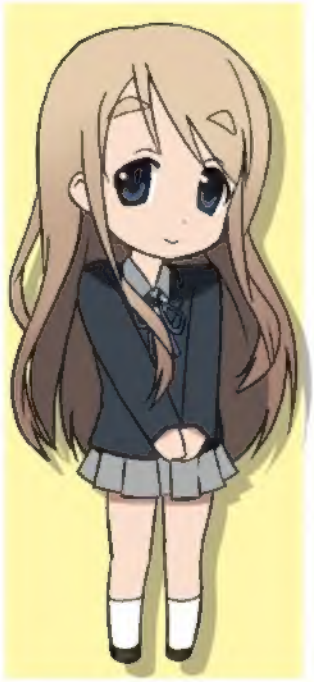


TSUMUGI KOTOBUKI
KEYBOARD

RITSU TAINAKA
DRUMS

MIO AKIYAMA
BASS

YUI HIRASAWA
GUITAR

UI HIRASAWA
YUI'S YOUNGER SISTER

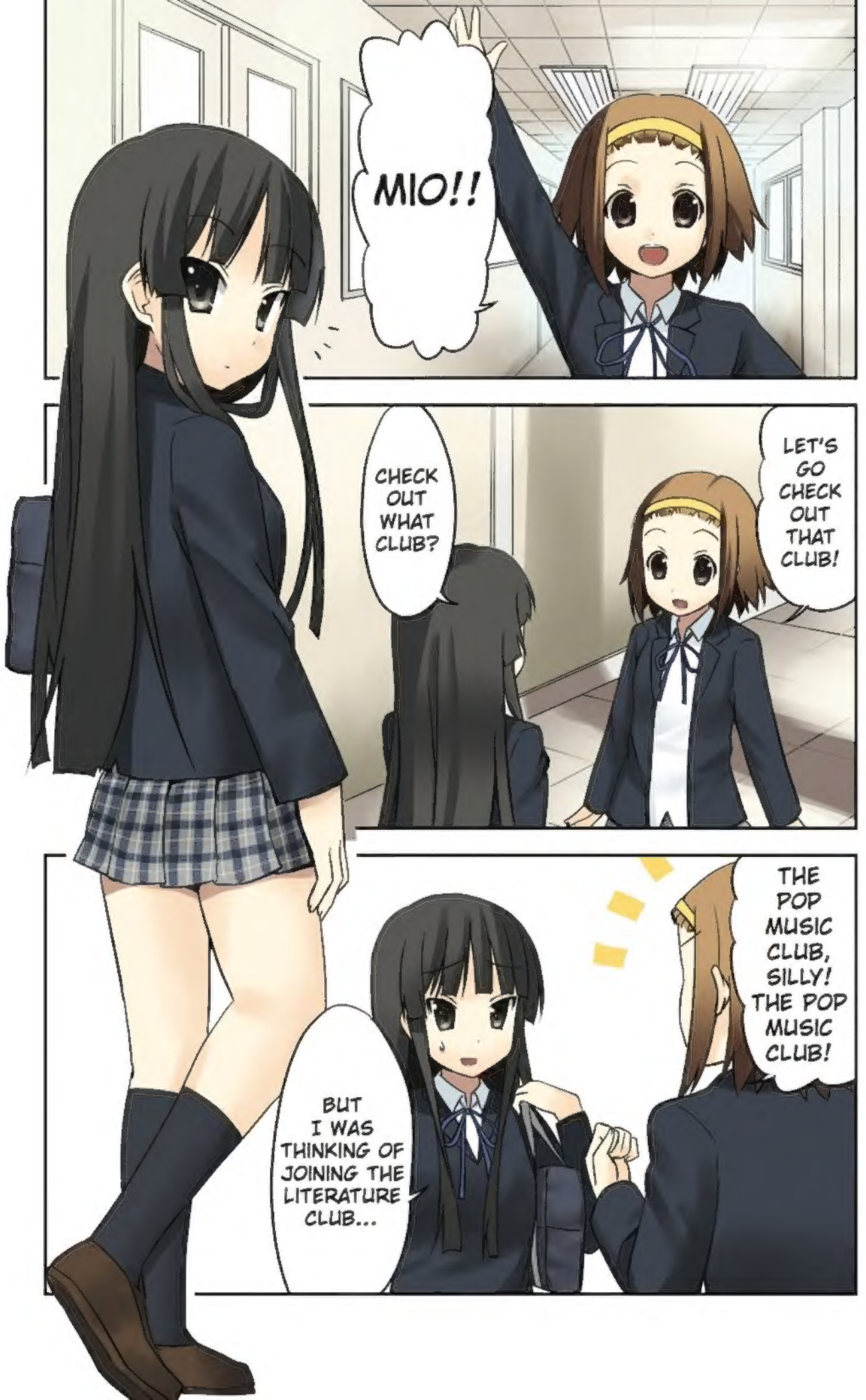
NODOKA MANABE
YUI'S FRIEND

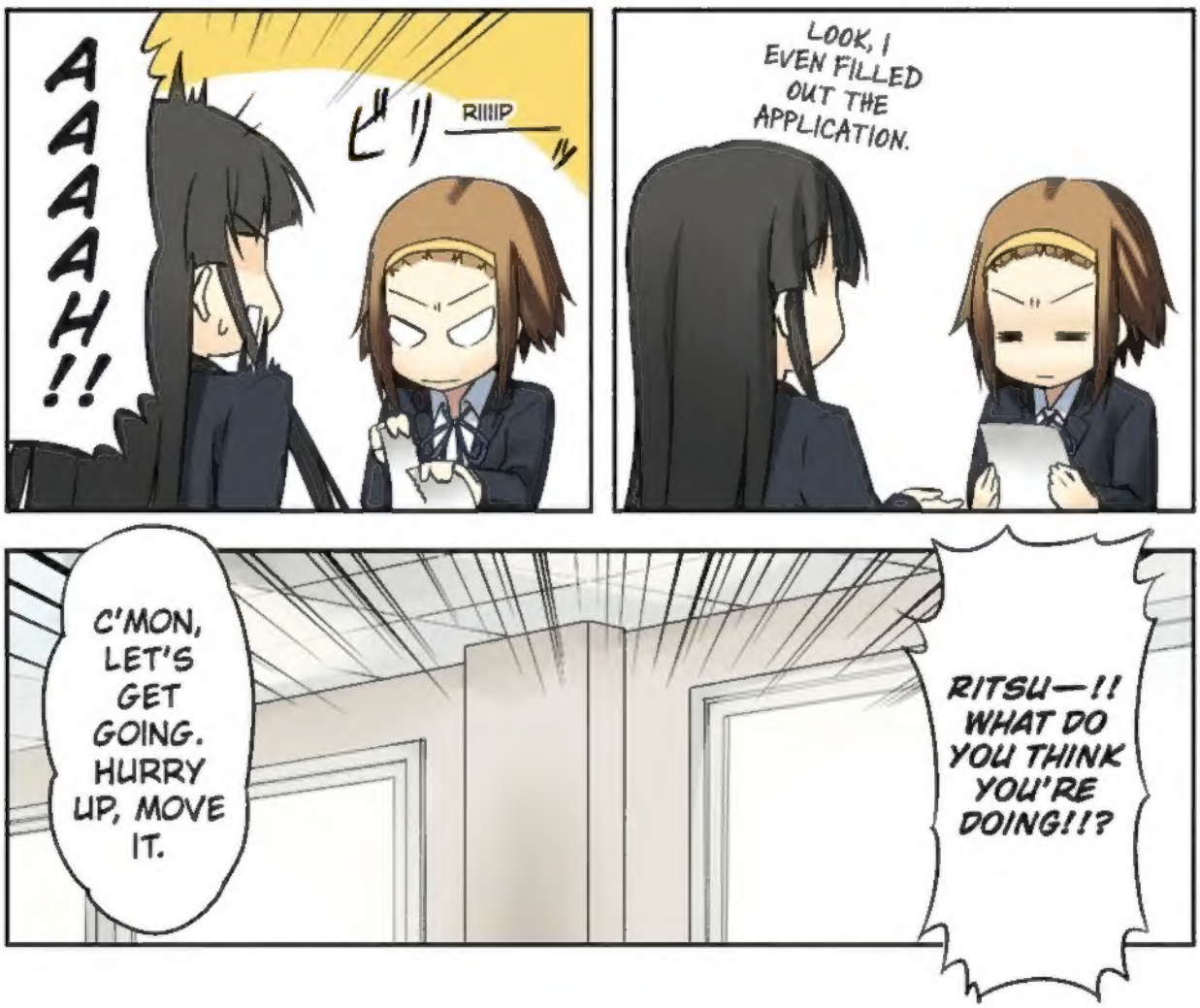
SAWAKO YAMANAKA
TEACHER

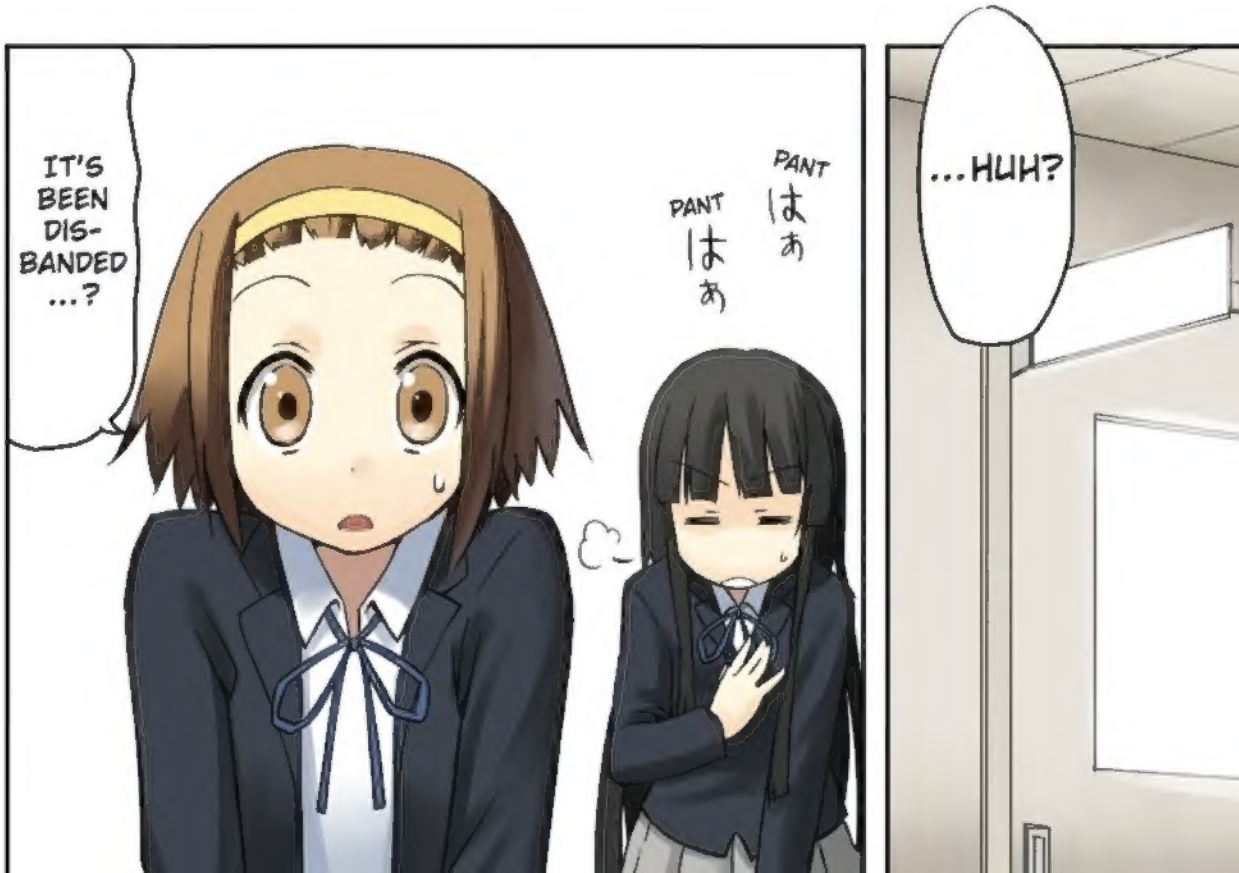
K-ON!
CHARACTER INTRODUCTION

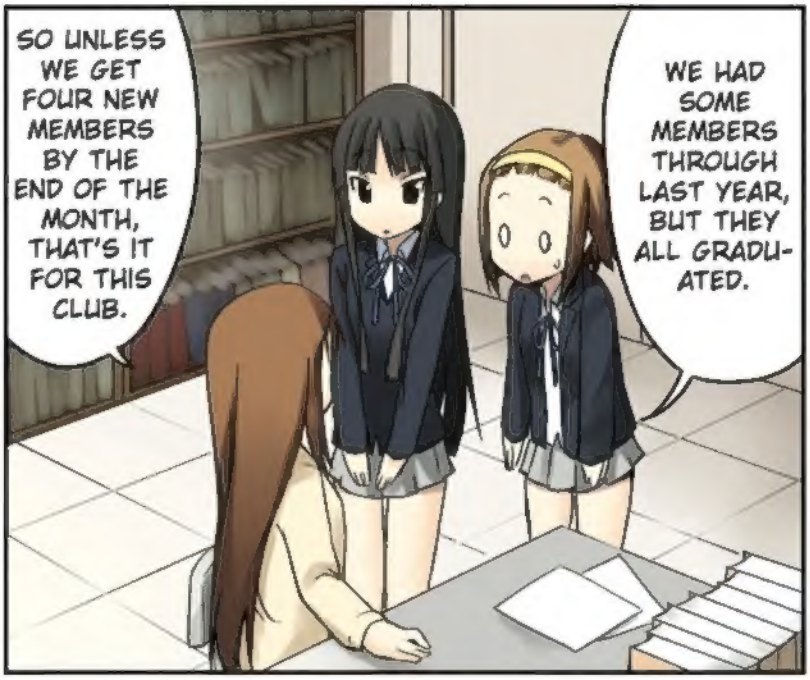
PRESENTED BY
kakifly

C H A R A C T E R S


MIO!!
LET'S GO CHECK OUT THAT CLUB!
CHECK OUT WHAT CLUB?
THE POP MUSIC CLUB, SILLY! THE POP MUSIC CLUB!
BUT I WAS THINKING OF JOINING THE LITERATURE CLUB...

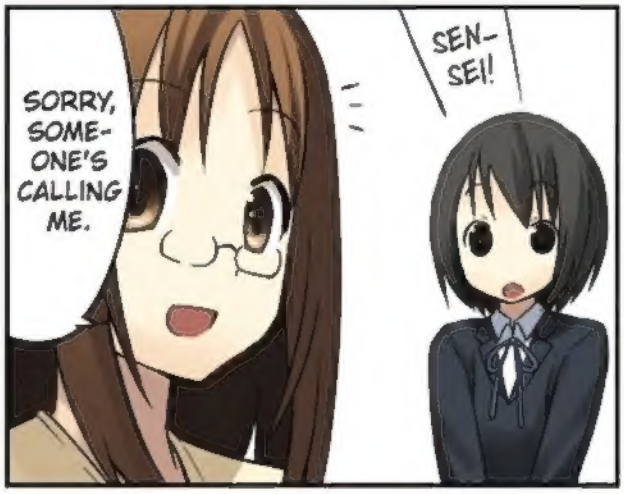

AAAAH!!
ビリ
RIIIIP
LOOK, I EVEN FILLED OUT THE APPLICATION.
C'MON, LET'S GET GOING. HURRY UP, MOVE IT.
RITSU—!! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!!?


IT'S BEEN DIS-BANDED ...?
PANT はぁ
PANT はぁ
...HUH?

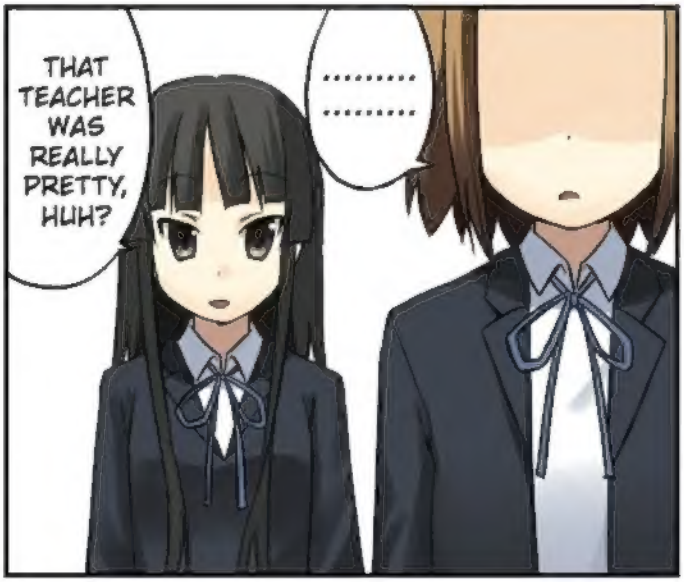

WE HAD SOME MEMBERS THROUGH LAST YEAR, BUT THEY ALL GRADUATED.
SO UNLESS WE GET FOUR NEW MEMBERS BY THE END OF THE MONTH, THAT'S IT FOR THIS CLUB.

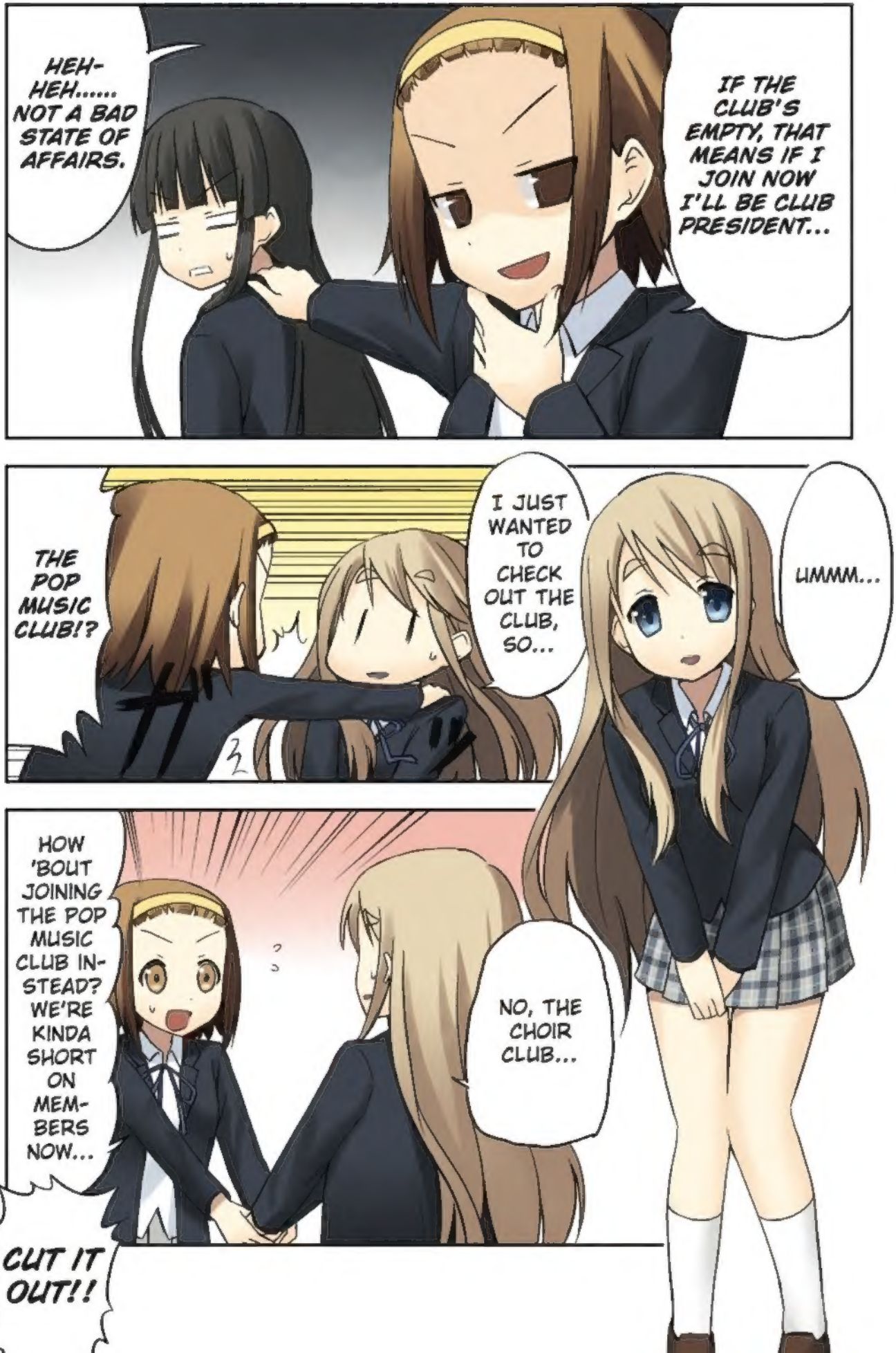
TECHNICALLY, IT'S ONLY *ABOUT* TO BE DISBANDED.

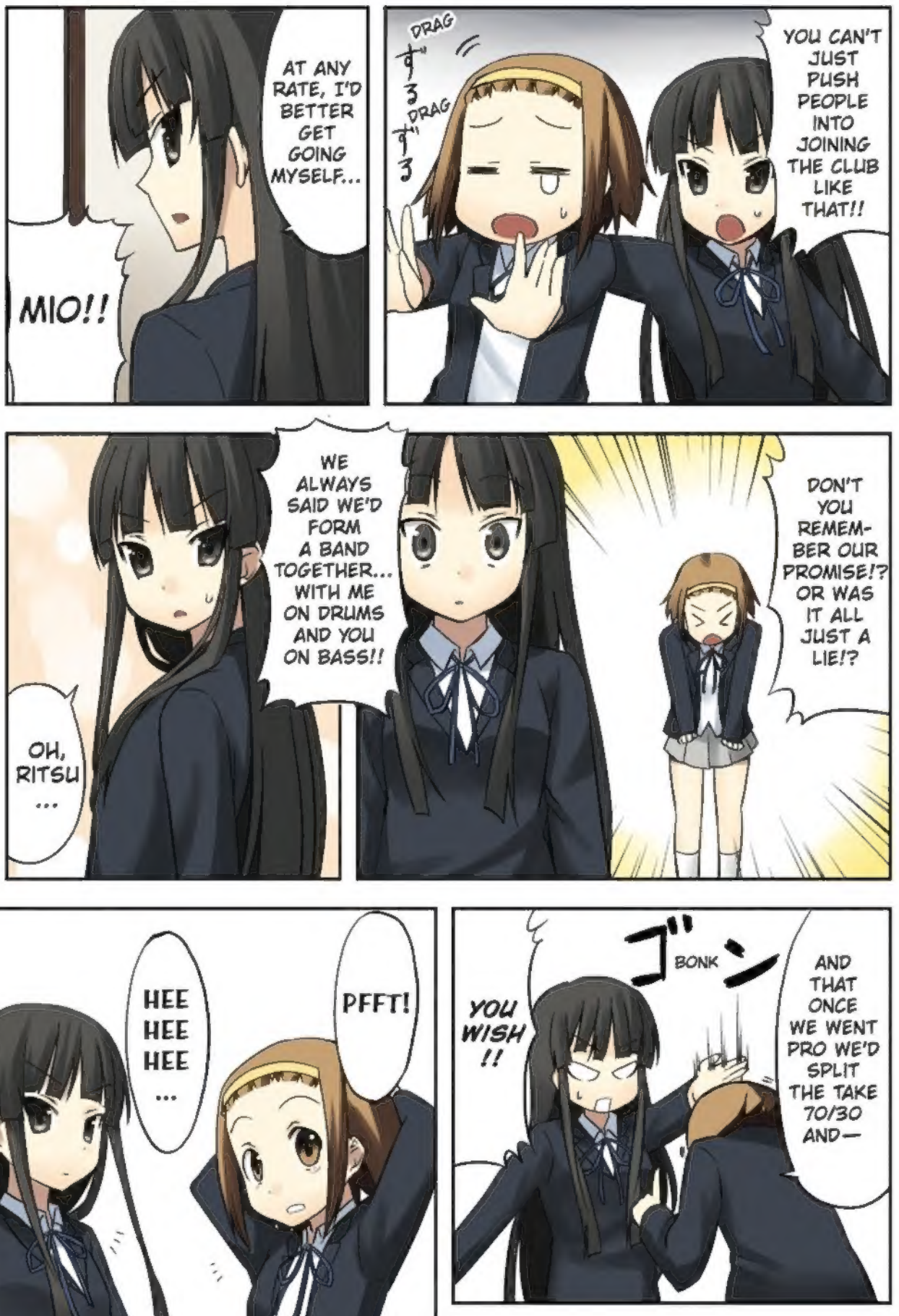
GOOD LUCK!


SEN-SEI!
SORRY, SOME-ONE'S CALLING ME.

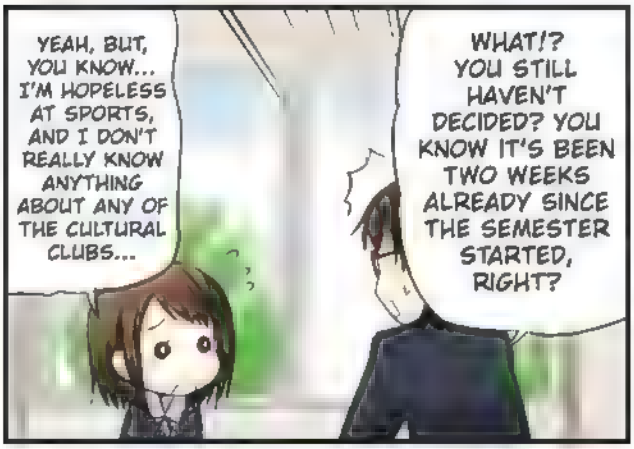
GRAB
むんず
ANYWAY, THIS CLUB'S HISTORY, SO I'M HEADING BACK OVER TO THE LITERATUR—

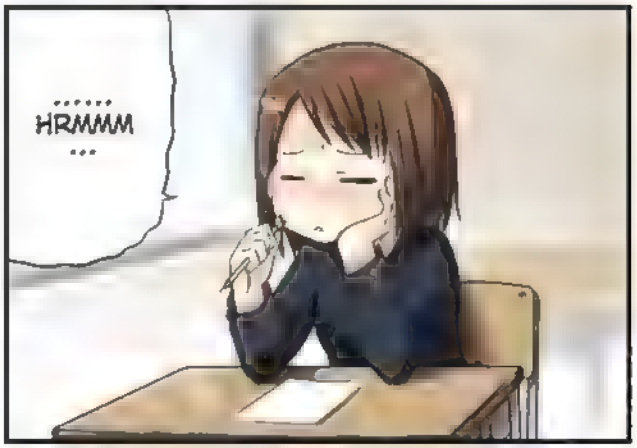

.....
.....
THAT TEACHER WAS REALLY PRETTY, HUH?

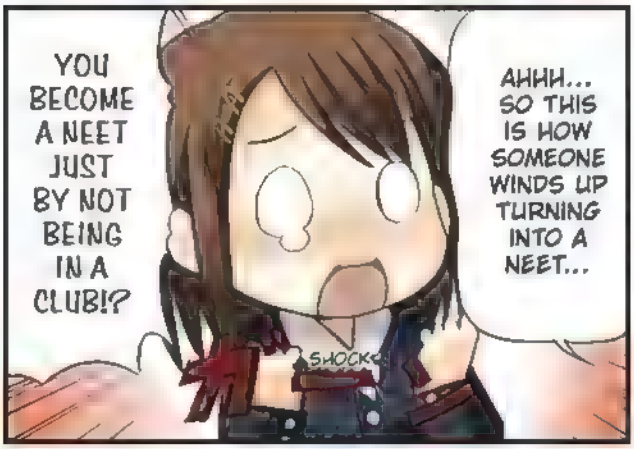

HEH-HEH..... NOT A BAD STATE OF AFFAIRS.
IF THE CLUB'S EMPTY, THAT MEANS IF I JOIN NOW I'LL BE CLUB PRESIDENT...
THE POP MUSIC CLUB!?
I JUST WANTED TO CHECK OUT THE CLUB, SO...
UMMM...
HOW 'BOUT JOINING THE POP MUSIC CLUB IN-STEAD? WE'RE KINDA SHORT ON MEM-BERS NOW...
NO, THE CHOIR CLUB...
CUT IT OUT!!


MIO!!
AT ANY RATE, I'D BETTER GET GOING MYSELF...
DRAG
ず
3
DRAG
ず
3
YOU CAN'T JUST PUSH PEOPLE INTO JOINING THE CLUB LIKE THAT!!
OH, RITSU ...
WE ALWAYS SAID WE'D FORM A BAND TOGETHER... WITH ME ON DRUMS AND YOU ON BASS!!
DON'T YOU REMEMBER OUR PROMISE!? OR WAS IT ALL JUST A LIE!?
HEE HEE HEE ...
PFFT!
YOU WISH !!
ゴン
BONK
AND THAT ONCE WE WENT PRO WE'D SPLIT THE TAKE 70/30 AND—

ALL I CAN PLAY IS THE KEYBOARD, BUT IF YOU'LL HAVE ME, THEN I'D LIKE TO JOIN THE CLUB.
THIS SEEMS LIKE IT COULD BE A LOT OF FUN.
...YOU'RE ALREADY INCLUDING ME, I SEE...
THANK YOU!! NOW WE JUST NEED ONE MORE PERSON!!
ALL WE NEED NOW IS A GUITARIST!


YEAH, BUT, YOU KNOW... I'M HOPELESS AT SPORTS, AND I DON'T REALLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ANY OF THE CULTURAL CLUBS...
WHAT!? YOU STILL HAVEN'T DECIDED? YOU KNOW IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS ALREADY SINCE THE SEMESTER STARTED, RIGHT?


..... HRMMM ...


YOU BECOME A NEET JUST BY NOT BEING IN A CLUB!?
AHHH... SO THIS IS HOW SOMEONE WINDS UP TURNING INTO A NEET...
SHOCK

OH HI, NODOKA... I JUST CAN'T DECIDE WHAT CLUB TO JOIN...
WHAT'S WITH ALL THE GROAN-ING, YUI?

LOOKS TO ME LIKE THEY'RE DOING BAND-TYPE STUFF, RIGHT?
POP MUSIC CLUB
Wanna be in a rock band with us? Guitarist needed!!
SEE?
OKAY... FOR NOW, I JUST WENT AHEAD AND JOINED THE POP MUSIC CLUB!!
ALL RIGHT THEN, WHAT CAN YOU PLAY?
WHA—? I CAN'T PLAY GUITAR OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT...
DURING LUNCH
BEATS ME.
OH YEAH...? SO WHAT DOES THIS "POP MUSIC CLUB" DO, ANYWAY?
UH...
CHEW
CHEW
...YEAH, I CAN ACTUALLY SEE THAT.
CA... CASTANETS?
WHAT KIND OF LAZY-ASS CLUB IS THIS, ANYWAY?
LIKE WHISTLING AND STUFF!
BUT THEY CALL IT "POP" MUSIC, SO I'M SURE THEY'LL ONLY DO STUFF THAT'S NOT TOO COMPLICATED!

HYEEEK!?
JUMP
ビクッ
ポン
PAT
MUSIC ROOM
SO THIS IS THE PLACE, HUH...?
YOU SCARED ME...
WHY ARE YOU HANGING AROUND OUTSIDE OUR CLUB-ROOM?
...*POP MUSIC CLUB*— I WONDER WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE ARE IN IT, ANYWAY.
IT'S GONNA BE HARD TO SAY THIS AFTER I JUST JOINED... BUT I THINK I SHOULD TELL THEM I'M QUITTING THE CLUB.
OH WAIT, YOU'RE NOT YUI HIRASAWA, ARE YOU? THE PRO-SPECTIVE NEW MEMBER?
PICTURING IT
SOME-HOW THEY MUST'VE GOTTEN THE WRONG IDEA...!
CLUTCH
ガシッ
AND YOU'RE REALLY GOOD ON GUITAR, RIGHT!? WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!!
YOU THINK YOU CAN QUIT JUST LIKE THAT!? KILL!!
HUH!? YOU WANNA QUIT!?
UH-WUH-
WUH-WUHHHH...!

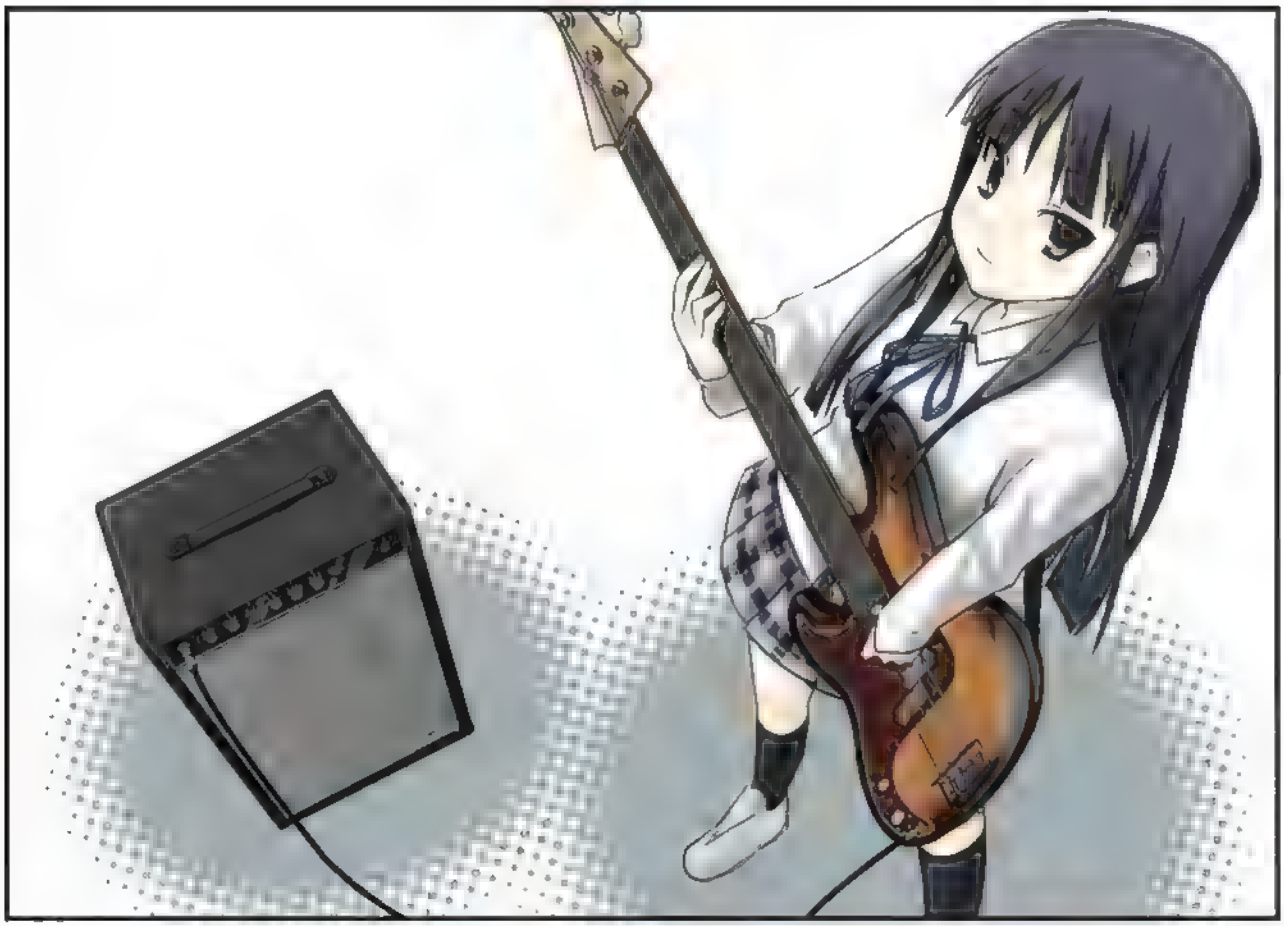
...THE TRUTH IS, WE'RE ALL NEW MEMBERS THIS YEAR TOO...
HEY, EVERY-ONE!! THE PROSPEC-TIVE NEW MEMBER'S HERE—!!
SO THE THREE OF US ARE THE ONLY ONES IN THE CLUB RIGHT NOW.
ALL THE OLDER MEMBERS ENDED UP GRADUAT-ING LAST YEAR.
ズズ… SIP
REALLY?
WELL!
SO WE WERE ABOUT TO BE DIS-BANDED IF WE COULDN'T FIND ONE MORE WITHIN THE WEEK.
YEAH, AND THEY SAID WE CAN'T BE AN OFFICIAL CLUB UNLESS WE HAVE FOUR MEM-BERS.
WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!!
WEL-COME TO THE POP MUSIC CLUB!!
IT'S GETTING HARDER AND HARDER TO FESS UP—!
CLUTCH
ガシッ
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR JOINING AND SAVING OUR CLUB!
OH NO... WHAT DO I DO NOW? HOW CAN I TELL THEM I'M QUIT-TING...?
RIGHT!
OKAY, MUGI! HURRY AND GET THE TEA READY!!

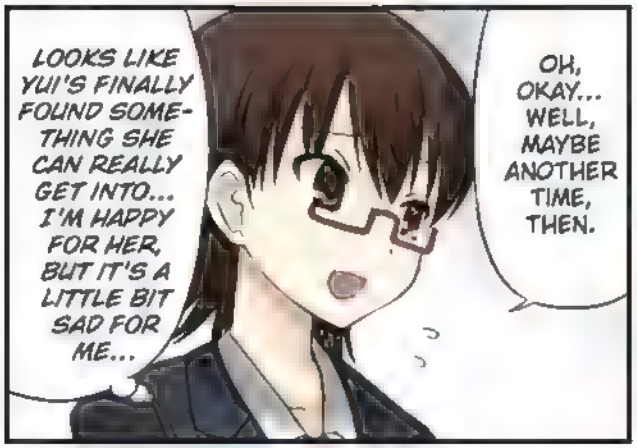
...MUST MEAN YOU HAVE SOME INTEREST IN MUSIC, RIGHT?
BUT JUST THE FACT THAT YOU WANTED TO JOIN THE CLUB...
YOU CAME TO TELL US YOU'RE QUITTING?
EH...?
MMM, NO. NOT REALLY...
WAS THERE SOME OTHER CLUB YOU WANTED TO JOIN?
I...I JUST... I THOUGHT I'D BE PLAY-ING ANOTHER INSTRU-MENT...
GLOOM
IS... IS THAT RIGHT...
THEN DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT YOU WANNA JOIN, OKAY?
WELL IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T YOU JUST LISTEN TO US PLAY SOMETHING FIRST?
CASTA... ER, I MEAN, H-HAR-MONICA!!
PLAYING IT UP
OH? ALL RIGHT, THEN, WHAT CAN YOU PLAY?
NOW THAT WE'VE GOT A SUCKER IN THE DOOR, THERE'S NO WAY I'M LETTIN' HER GET AWAY!!
OF COURSE! WE DON'T MIND!
EH? YOU'RE GONNA PERFORM FOR ME?
GRIIIIN
SORRY, I LIED. I CAN'T ACTUALLY PLAY.
OH, HARMONICA? WE'VE GOT ONE RIGHT HERE! GO ON AND PLAY US SOMETH—
SHE ACTUALLY HAD ONE W

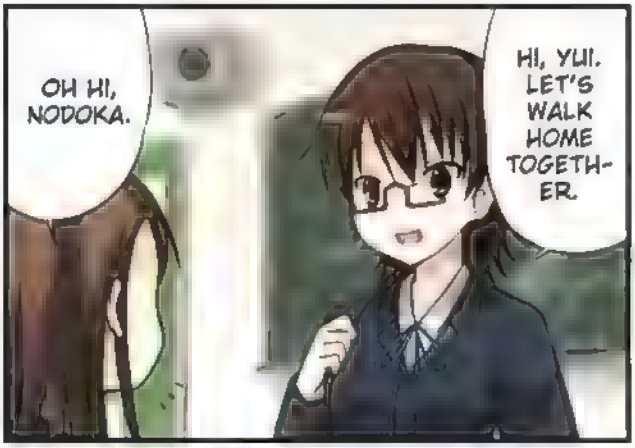
ジャーン
JAANG
EH-HEH-HEH... SO, WHAT DID YOU THINK?
HOW SHOULD I DESCRIBE IT...? IT'S KINDA HARD TO PUT IT INTO WORDS...
...YOU GUYS AREN'T VERY GOOD!!
SHE DOESN'T PULL PUNCHES —!!

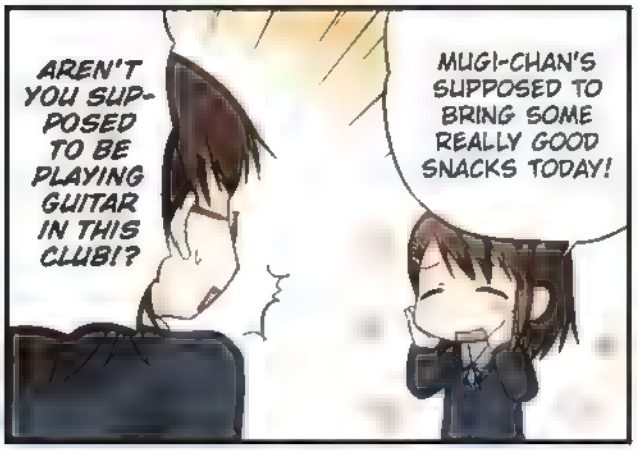
I'VE GOT IT! SINCE YOU'RE GONNA BE JOINING THE CLUB ANYWAY, WHY DON'T YOU USE IT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO START LEARNING GUITAR?
...I COULD TELL YOU WERE REALLY HAVING A LOT OF FUN.
BUT EVEN SO...
AFTER ALL, WE DO NEED A GUITARIST.
YEAH! THAT'S A GOOD IDEA, DON'T YOU THINK?
YAY!
SO I'LL JOIN THE CLUB!!
IT'LL BE FINE— WE'LL HELP OUT BY TEACHING YOU WHATEVER WE CAN.
B-BUT... GUITAR SEEMS TOO HARD TO JUST "LEARN" LIKE THAT...
UM...BUT I CAN'T REALLY PLAY ANY INSTRUMENTS...
THANK YOU! LET'S ALL WORK HARD AND DO OUR BEST!
YIPPEE!
HOW NICE FOR YOU.
YEAH, I GUESS IT COULD WORK. LISTENING TO YOU GUYS PERFORM JUST NOW, I GOT THE FEELING IT WAS SOMETHING EVEN I COULD DO!
WELL... THIS ISN'T EXACTLY A SPORTS CLUB...
AH! HOW 'BOUT I BE YOU GUYS' WATER GIRL OR SOMETHING?

NO, I JOINED AS A FULL-FLEDGED MEMBER!
YOU ENDED UP JOINING THE POP MUSIC CLUB AFTER ALL!?
EH!?
REALLY...?
SOMEHOW I CAN'T SEE YUI ON GUITAR.
THEY SAID THEY'D TEACH ME GUITAR FROM THE GROUND UP.
LUNCH THE NEXT DAY
ARE YOU SERI-OUS!?
YEP. THEY JUST WOULDN'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER.
AH, SO THAT MEANS YOU'RE GONNA BE BUYING A BRAND-NEW GUITAR OR SOMETHING.
MUNCH
MUNCH
THE POOR POP MUSIC CLUB NEVER SAW THIS ONE COM-ING...
...I CAN PROBABLY GET ONE FOR ABOUT ¥5000, RIGHT?
CLUELESS
ほわ〜ん
IT KINDA STINGS WHEN SOMEONE ELSE SAYS IT...
AH! THEY MUST'VE MADE YOU THE WATER GIRL OR SOMETHING!




LOOKS LIKE YUI'S FINALLY FOUND SOMETHING SHE CAN REALLY GET INTO... I'M HAPPY FOR HER, BUT IT'S A LITTLE BIT SAD FOR ME...
OH, OKAY... WELL, MAYBE ANOTHER TIME, THEN.


OH HI, NODOKA.
HI, YUI. LET'S WALK HOME TOGETHER.


AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE PLAYING GUITAR IN THIS CLUB!?
MUGI-CHAN'S SUPPOSED TO BRING SOME REALLY GOOD SNACKS TODAY!

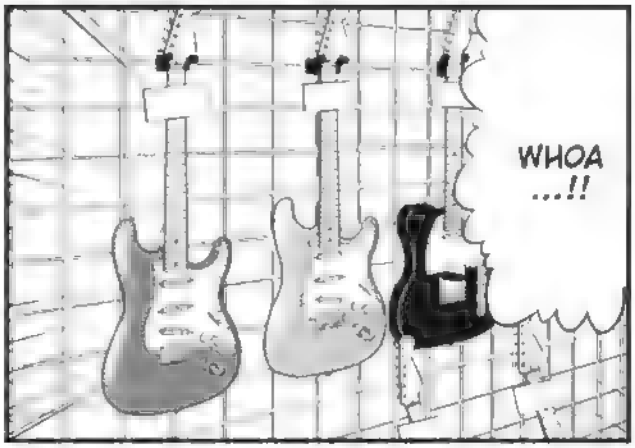
I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T. I'VE JUST GOTTA GO TO CLUB TODAY!

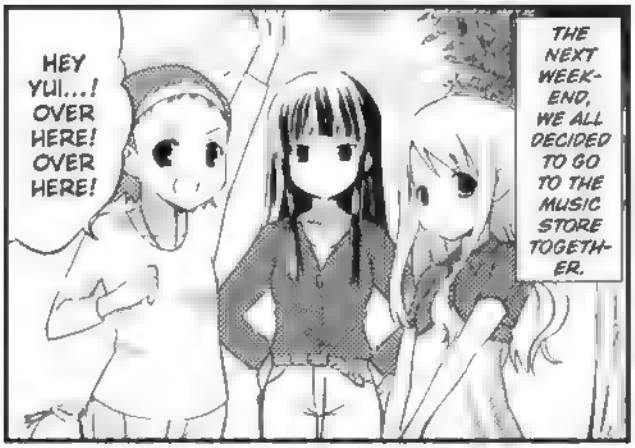
SO THE EYES OF THE AUDIENCE JUST NATURALLY TEND TO FALL ON THEM, RIGHT?
GUITARISTS ARE LIKE THE FOCAL POINT OF ANY BAND. THEY HAVE TO BE OUT FRONT AND CENTER WHEN THE BAND PERFORMS.
SHE'S TALL AND HAS THE STYLISH LOOK OF AN ADULT WOMAN.
MIO-CHAN PLAYS BASS FOR THE CLUB.
HIYA!
JUST THINKING ABOUT THE IDEA OF MYSELF BEING IN THAT POSITION, I GET ALL...
HEY MIO, I WAS WONDERING— HOW COME YOU DECIDED TO PLAY BASS INSTEAD OF GUITAR?
BECAUSE GUITARS ...
SHE'S ALSO SOMEWHAT DELICATE.
MIO-CHAN!?
FAINT
EMBARRASSING!?
... IT'S... EMBARRASSING.

EVERYONE, THE TEA'S READY!
TSUMUGI-SAN (WE CALL HER "MUGI-CHAN") PLAYS KEYBOARD.
SHE'S REALLY CUTE AND LIKEABLE AND GIVES OFF A WARM, FUZZY VIBE.
SPEAKING OF TEA, I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK ABOUT THIS FOR A WHILE NOW...
HAVE YOU BEEN PLAYING A LONG TIME?
YOU'RE REALLY GOOD ON THE KEYBOARD, MUGI-CHAN.
IS THIS JUST THE WAY SCHOOLS ARE NOW-ADAYS?
THIS CLUB-ROOM SEEMS UNUSUALLY WELL-EQUIPPED, DON'T YOU THINK?
LIKE THESE MATCHING TEACUPS.
ACTU-ALLY, I'VE EVEN WON A FEW RECITAL CON-TESTS.
I'VE BEEN TAKING PIANO LESSONS SINCE I WAS FOUR YEARS OLD.
...AS YOU CAN SEE, SHE'S VERY MUCH THE RICH-GIRL TYPE.
ALL THIS STUFF IS YOURS!?
AH, MOST OF THIS STUFF IS MINE. I BROUGHT IT FROM HOME.
...ALSO, SHE'S SORT OF A RICH-GIRL TYPE, BUT IN A GOOD WAY.
I WONDER WHAT THE HECK SHE'S DO-ING IN THE POP MUSIC CLUB...
REALLY...? WOW... THAT'S PRETTY AWESOME.
SMILE
SMILE

IT'S BECAUSE WITH GUITAR AND BASS AND KEY-BOARD...
BWU... BE-CAUSE ...!!
SHE'S A REALLY LIVELY AND CHEER-FUL GAL.
RITSU-SAN PLAYS THE DRUMS. HER NICKNAME IS "RIT-CHAN."
BITTER—!
...YOU HAVE TO DO ALL THIS COMPLI-CATED STUFF WITH YOUR FINGERS. JUST THINK-ING ABOUT IT MADE ME GO...
WHADDAYA MEAN!? I HAD MY REASONS FOR CHOOSING DRUMS!!
RIT-CHAN, IT'S KINDA LIKE YOU JUST WOUND UP PLAYING THE DRUMS, HUH?
GO ON, ASK!
JUMP
KYEEE!!
GRAB
GRAB
WELL, IT'S UM... YOU KNOW... IT'S, UH...
OH YEAH? WHAT WERE THEY? WHAT WERE THEY?
A PERSON'S CHOICE OF INSTRU-MENT REALLY SAYS A LOT ABOUT WHO SHE IS...
...LIKE THAT.
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
PANT
PANT
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU DIDN'T.
...BECAUSE THEY'RE COOL.
MUMBLE
MUMBLE

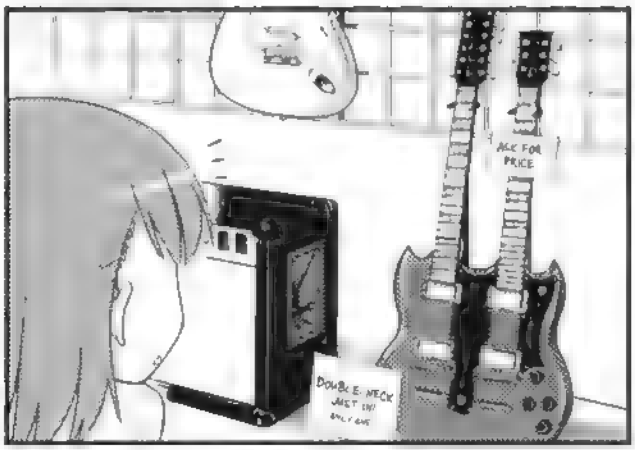
HOW MUCH DOES A GUITAR COST, ANYWAY?
SPEAKING OF INSTRUMENTS, YUI, HAVE YOU BOUGHT A GUITAR YET?
AT THE LOW END, MAYBE SOMETHING IN THE ¥30,000 RANGE...
THIRTY THOUSAND YEN!?
HMM... WELL, YOU CAN GET CHEAP ONES FROM AROUND THE ¥10,000 MARK, BUT YOU DON'T REALLY WANNA GO TOO CHEAP WITH A GUITAR.
HM? A GUITAR?
WELL, AN EXPENSIVE ONE COULD COST UPWARDS OF ¥100,000 OR MORE, RIGHT?
UH-WUH-WUHHH...
THAT'S SIX MONTHS' WORTH OF ALLOWANCE...
NICE TRY. ♪
...WOULD THERE MAYBE BE SOME CLUB FUNDS AVAILABLE?
... THE POP MUSIC CLUB ISN'T SOME CAFÉ, YOU KNOW.
I COMPLETELY FORGOT...
OH YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT. I'M SUPPOSED TO BE PLAYING GUITAR!


WHOA ...!!


HEY YUI...! OVER HERE! OVER HERE!
THE NEXT WEEK-END, WE ALL DECIDED TO GO TO THE MUSIC STORE TOGETH-ER.

THIS PLACE IS AWE-SOME... SO MANY GUITARS!

I BEGGED MY MOM AND GOT HER TO GIVE ME A ¥50,000 ADVANCE ON MY ALLOW-ANCE.
DID YOU BRING THE MONEY?


ACC FOR PRICE
DOUBLE NECK JUST IN! ONLY ONE

...SO FROM NOW ON, I'VE GOTTA BE CAREFUL ABOUT MY SPENDING!
THE THING WITH MONEY IS, YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU'RE GONNA NEED IT...
HMPH.

YUI? WHAT'RE YOU DOING? OVER THIS WAY.
??
HELLO THERE!

HEY! HEY! HEY! HEY! HEY!
OH, THAT'S SO CUTE. I HAVE THE MONEY TO BUY IT
...I KNOW I CAN'T, BUT...
TUG

OH... YOU'RE RIGHT...
BUT WAIT, THIS ONE COSTS LIKE ¥150,000?!

I DON'T KNOW WHICH ONE TO GET.
HRMM... THERE'RE JUST TOO MANY CHOICES.

YOU REALLY WANT THIS ONE?
THERE'S JUST NO WAY I CAN AFFORD THAT...

OF COURSE THERE IS.
HRMMMM...
IS THERE MAYBE SOME RULE I COULD USE TO DECIDE?

Y-YOU'RE THE BOSS'S DAUGHTER...!!
HYEEK!!
UM... COULD YOU MAYBE KNOCK DOWN THE PRICE OF THAT GUITAR FOR US?

...BUT THERE ARE LOTS OF OTHER CONSIDERATIONS TOO, LIKE THE WEIGHT, AS WELL AS THE SHAPE AND THICKNESS OF THE NECK.
NECK
THE TONE IS THE FIRST THING...

WHAT!? WHAT'D YOU DO!?
A-ARE YOU SERIOUS...!?
HEY GUYS, HE AGREED TO LET IT GO FOR ¥50,000. ♪

OOH, THIS ONE'S SO CUTE! ♪
SHE'S NOT EVEN LISTENING!!
SO FOR A GIRL, FOR EXAMPLE, YOU'D WANT A LIGHTWEIGHT BODY WITH A THIN NECK AND—

チュン
CHIRP
チュン
CHIRP
THE NEXT DAY
THAT NIGHT
YOU'RE GONNA BE LATE IF YOU DON'T GET UP SOON —!!
ONEE-CHAAAAN!?
IT LOOKS SO CUTE...
EH HEH HEH...
ガチャ
CLICK
...ONEE-CHAN?
WHOA!! I TOTALLY LOOK LIKE A MUSICIAN!!
LET'S TRY HOLDING IT...
SHE SLEPT WITH IT!?
ZZZZ
HEY ONEE-CHAN, YOU'RE BEING TOO LOUD...
I... I HAFTA PRACTICE MY AUTOGRAPH!!

HEY, TRY PLAYING SOME-THING!
PUT A GUITAR IN HER HANDS, AND SHE ACTUALLY LOOKS THE PART, HUH?

JA-JANG

THE CHARU-MERA SONG !?
CHALALIIIII-LALA-
チャラリー
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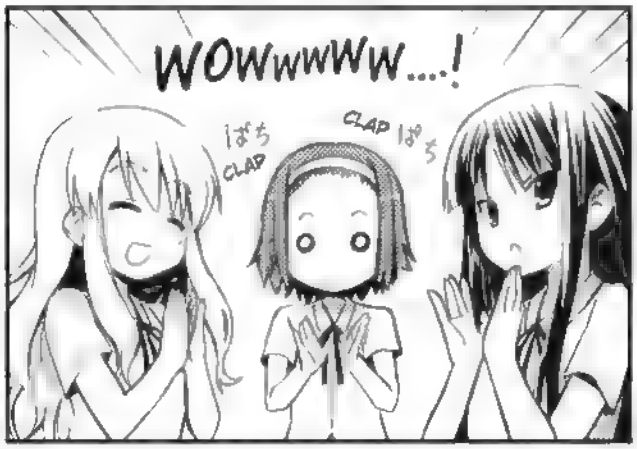

WOWwwWw....!
ぱち CLAP
CLAP ぱち

I KNOW, BUT IT'S JUST SO SHINY AND NEW...
YUI, HAVEN'T YOU BEEN PRACTICING GUITAR AT HOME?
AH, I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
I'M AFRAID TO TOUCH IT AND MESS IT UP.
TH... THAT'S NOT TRUE —!!
I BET YOU DON'T EVEN TOUCH IT AT HOME, HUH?
AND SURE ENOUGH, I SEE YOU HAVEN'T EVEN REMOVED THE PROTECTIVE FILM.
I DO POSES WITH IT IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR, I SLEEP WITH IT IN MY BED, I TAKE PICTURES OF IT...
I'M TAKING REALLY GOOD CARE OF IT, OKAY? AS SOON AS I NOTICE ANY DUST, I WIPE IT RIGHT OFF.
AMAZING!! HOW'D YOU KNOW!?
...YUI, I'LL BET YOU STILL HAVE THAT PROTECTIVE FILM ON YOUR CELL PHONE SCREEN, DON'T YOU?
TRY *PLAYING* IT.
PHEW.
...AND SOMETIMES I'LL SPEND THE WHOLE DAY JUST SITTING THERE STARING AT IT. THAT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME...

UHHHH...
ズーン...
CRUSHED
うず
FIDGET
うず
FIDGET
I...I'M SORRY. I JUST DID IT ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT!!
-APOLO-GIZE
HEY...
AAAAH!!
HYAH!!
ビリーッ
RIIIP
LIKE THAT'S EVER GONNA WORK...
HEY LOOK, HERE'S SOME SNACKS MUGI-CHAN BROUGHT FOR US!!
IT ACTUALLY WORKED —!?
もぐ
MUNCH
もぐ
MUNCH
JUS... JUST KIDDING, OKAY...?
ぷるぷる
QUIVER
ぷるぷる
QUIVER

AT ANY RATE... THESE TREATS ARE DELICIOUS!
UH..UGHHH..
AFTER ALL, GUITARS ARE MEANT TO BE PLAYED ...
I GUESS YOU GUYS ARE RIGHT ...
MUGI-CHAN, ARE YOU SURE YOU WANNA KEEP FEEDING US THESE REALLY EXPENSIVE SNACKS ALL THE TIME...?
IT'S KINDA SAD FOR THE POOR GUITAR IF ALL YOU EVER DO IS JUST PAMPER IT.
IF I LEAVE THEM AT HOME, THEY'LL JUST PILE UP, SO I'D RATHER YOU GUYS EAT THEM THAN HAVE THEM GO TO WASTE.
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. WE GET STUFF LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME AS GIFTS FROM VARIOUS PEOPLE.
OH? U-UHH... IS THAT SO?
THANK YOU, RIT-CHAN! NOW I'M READY TO GET STARTED!
WHAT KIND OF FAMILY IS THAT —!?
SMILE
SMILE
HER FAMILY GETS SO MANY SNACKS FROM OTHER PEOPLE THAT THEY START PILING UP AND GOING TO WASTE!?
DON'T PUSH IT.
JAB
ドスッ
YEP! I HAD A FEELING THAT'D HELP JUMP-START YUI ON HER GUITAR PRACTICE! ONCE AGAIN I'M RIGH—
UGHH!

TEE HEE HEE..
I GUESS I NEED A LITTLE MORE PRACTICE BEFORE I TRY PLAYING THROUGH AN AMP...
?
NOW THAT WE'RE ON THE TOPIC, HOW DO I GET MY GUITAR TO SOUND LIKE THE ONES AT CONCERTS?
HUH?
WHOA!! YUI, BE CARE-FUL!!
YANK
WANNA TRY PLUG-GING IT IN?
AH. FOR THAT, YOU NEED TO PLUG IT INTO AN AMP.
WHAM
WHOA!! THAT SOUNDS AWE-SOME!!
JA-RANG
Y...YOU COULDA WARNED ME...
YOU OKAY?
IT DOES THAT IF YOU YANK OUT THE CORD WITHOUT TURNING DOWN THE VOLUME ON THE AMP FIRST...
RING
...COURSE, I STILL CAN'T PLAY ANYTHING EXCEPT THE CHARUMERA SONG.
CHALALI LALA~

SO DON'T WORRY, YOUR FINGERS WON'T BLEED OR ANY-THING.
AHEM.
AS YOU PRACTICE MORE, YOU'LL START TO DEVELOP CALLUSES ON YOUR FINGER-TIPS.
THESE GUITAR STRINGS ARE KINDA SCARY, HUH?
OH, I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN.
I PLAY BASS, BUT IT'S THE SAME THING.
SEE?
ピーン FLASH
THEY'RE SO HARD AND THIN IT SEEMS LIKE I'M GONNA CUT MY FINGERS.
RUB
KYAAAAH!!
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT! IF YOU DON'T WATCH IT THEY'LL SLASH RIGHT THROUGH YOUR FINGERS AND THE BLOOD'LL START GUSH-ING OUT AND—
JUST... JUST A LITTLE MORE, OKAY?
UM... YUI?
I... I CAN'T LISTEN TO GORY STORIES ...
WHAT A CUTE SCREAM...
... WHAT'S MIO SCREAM-ING ABOUT ...?
I WAS TRYING TO SCARE YUI...

SFX: TREMBLE TREMBLE

OKAY, SEE YOU GUYS TOMOR-ROW~!
I KNOW I'M SUP-POSED TO BE PRACTIC-ING AND ALL...
...BUT I HONESTLY HAVE NO IDEA WHERE TO EVEN BEGIN.
C
D
WELL, FOR START-ERS, YOU COULD LEARN SOME CHORDS.
OH, OKAY... THANKS.
YUI!!
Fm
D7
C
Gdim7
1 5 6
AH! NODO-KA-CHAN!
...WHAT'S THAT, SOME NEW KIND OF WAVE?
ガッ
STIFF
UH...UM... MAYBE YOU COULD START BY TEACHING ME HOW TO READ MUSICAL NOTATION.
YOU CAN'T EVEN DO THAT !?
PSHHHHH
ううう..

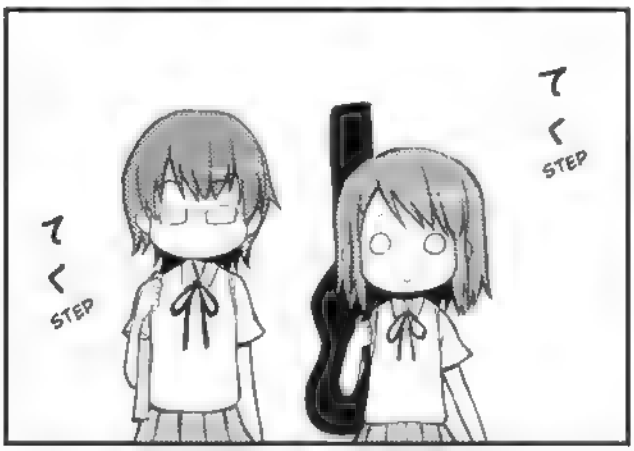
OH CRAP... MIDTERMS ALREADY, HUH...?
SIGH...

OH YEAH? YOU'RE REALLY WORKING HARD AT THIS, HUH?
EH-HEH-HEH... NO, IT'S A GUITAR CHORD. THEY TAUGHT ME SOME CHORDS TODAY.

.....
.....
AND HERE I WAS, RARING TO GO PRACTICE GUITAR...

YEAH. I WAS IN THE LIBRARY STUDYING FOR MID-TERMS.
IS THAT RIGHT?
SPEAKING OF WORK-ING HARD, YOU'RE GOING HOME AWFULLY LATE TODAY, NODOKA-CHAN.

...YUI, YOU HAVEN'T STUDIED FOR ANY TESTS YOUR WHOLE LIFE, HAVE YOU?


てく STEP
てく STEP

NO...I DON'T THINK YOU WILL...
OH RIGHT! I GUESS I'LL BE FINE, THEN. ☆

...A CHORD FOR THAT TOO?
ビシッ WHIP
EH!? MID-TERMS!?

どよーーーーん
DEPRESSED

I'M FINALLY DONE WITH THE TEST —!!
YEAH!!
のびーー
STRETCH

...LOOKS LIKE ONE OF US HERE HAD AN EVEN TOUGHER TIME WITH IT...
AH-HA-HA-HA.. HA-HA-HA..

YEAH, IT WAS... AND, UM...
EVERY-THING'S SUDDENLY HARDER NOW IN HIGH SCHOOL. THAT TEST WAS TOUGH.

WELL... I WAS GONNA, BUT...
?
SO WHY THE HECK DIDN'T YOU STUDY, ANY-WAY?

FIDGET
おろ
おろ
FIDGET
HEH HEH HEH
W-WAS YOUR TEST REALLY THAT BAD?

YEAH, THAT HAP-PENS TO ME TOO.
LIKE CLEAN-ING MY ROOM
...YOU KNOW HOW SOMETIMES WHEN YOU'RE STUDYING YOUR MIND STARTS FOCUSING ON OTHER THINGS?

WHOA...
APPAR-ENTLY I'M THE ONLY ONE IN CLASS WHO HAS TO TAKE A RETEST...

IN THE END, I WASN'T ABLE TO STUDY ONE BIT.
MAH~ WAH~ ♪
I STARTED PRACTICING GUITAR DURING A STUDY BREAK AND JUST COULDN'T TEAR MYSELF AWAY.

THAT'S RIGHT! JUST STUDY A LITTLE HARDER AND I'M SURE THE RETEST'LL BE A PIECE OF CAKE!
DON'T WORRY! YOU PROBABLY JUST DIDN'T STUDY WELL TH S TIME— I'M SURE THAT'S ALL IT IS, RIGHT?

IF YOU COULD JUST DIRECT A LITTLE OF THAT CONCEN-TRATION TOWARD STUDY-ING...
THAT'S IM-PRES-SIVE, BUT
YAY!
FWIP
BUT BECAUSE OF THAT, NOW I CAN PLAY ALMOST ALL THE CHORDS!

THEN WE TAKE BACK OUR WORDS OF ENCOUR-AGEMENT, YOU LITTLE INGRATE.
BUT I DIDN'T STUDY ONE BIT...

HO HO HO HO.
SOMEONE AT MY LEVEL CAN DO ANYTHING, AND DO IT PERFECTLY!
WHO, ME?
SO WHAT ABOUT YOU, RIT-CHAN? HOW'D YOU DO?
HO-HO-HO-HO
BUT RIT-CHAN, I REALLY THOUGHT YOU AND I WERE IN THE SAME GROUP...
IT WAS A PIECE OF CAKE! CHECK IT OUT!!
TA-DAA
UH!? DON'T RAT ME OUT!!
GRIN
GRIN
AND WHO WAS IT EXACTLY WHO CAME CRYING TO ME THE DAY BEFORE THE TEST, SAYING SHE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING ...?
.....
.....
ふんぞり
PROUDLY
I DON'T WANNA HEAR THAT FROM SOME-ONE WHO FLUNK-ED!!
ACTIN' ALL COOL ABOUT IT...!
GRAB
NOW THAT'S THE RIT-CHAN WE ALL KNOW !!
WHAT!? WHAT'S THAT SUP-POSED TO MEAN!?
KWAH!
...BUT THIS IS REALLY OUT OF CHARAC-TER FOR YOU, RIT-CHAN...

HUH...? ME?
...SO WHAT I'M SAYING IS, PLEASE HELP ME, MIO-CHAN!
PLEASE?
...JUST FOR THE TIME BEING, UNTIL I PASS THE MAKE-UP TEST.
YUMMY
THE TEACHER SAID I CAN'T BE INVOLVED IN CLUB ACTIVITIES ANYMORE ...
↖ AZUKI BEAN JELLY
YOU MEAN IT!?
...ALL RIGHT, I GUESS I'LL HELP YOU... WANNA DO A STUDY SESSION TODAY?
IT'S FINE. I'M JUST HERE TO EAT SOME SNACKS.
EH!? B-BUT IN THAT CASE, YOU SHOULDN'T EVEN BE IN THE CLUB-ROOM, SHOULD YOU!?
SHE'S REALLY GOOD, YOU KNOW...
SHY
SHY
YUI, IF YOU CAN GET MIO TO TEACH YOU, YOU'LL PASS THE TEST FOR SURE!
OH, OKAY. THEN IT SHOULD BE FINE.
HEY!! THAT GIVES HER THE WRONG IMPRESSION!!
I'M JUST GONNA TEACH HER NORMALLY!
...AT TEACHING PEOPLE HOW TO CRAM ALL NIGHT!
I GIVE UP! I GIVE UP!
SLAP
SLAP
IS THAT WHAT YOU THOUGHT I WOULD SAY!?

YUI'S ROOM
... WOW ...
I'M HOME!
IN THE END, EVERYONE DECIDED TO COME TO YUI'S HOUSE FOR A STUDY SESSION.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
?
HARUMI
...IT'S JUST WEIRD HOW TWO SISTERS CAN BE SO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT, HUH?
THANKS FOR INVITING US OVER
COME ON IN, EVERY-ONE. COME IN.
THAT'S SO MEAN!!
...UM...
WHAT, DID ALL YOUR GOOD QUALITIES GET SUCKED UP BY YOUR LITTLE SISTER OR SOME-THING?
...HUH? FRIENDS OF YOURS?
WEL-COME HOME, ONEE-CHAN.
CLICK
SHE ACTS AMAZ-INGLY GROWN-UP!!
I BROUGHT TEA AND SNACKS FOR EV-ERYONE.
SORRY THE SNACKS ARE NOTHING FANCY
SHE ACTS SO GROWN-UP!!
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M YUI'S YOUNGER SISTER, UI. THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING SO GOOD TO MY BIG SISTER.

.....
.....
SNIFF
?
?
AND RIGHT HERE...
ピーン
FLASH
UMMM, MY LEGS ARE FALLING ASLEEP
FIDGET
FIDGET
AHHHH...
OH! NOW I SEE!
GYAAAAH!!
POKE!
KA-KLUNK
SPIN
SPIN
NAP TIME!
OH! MANGA!
バタン
SLAM
ENOUGH!!
AH HA HA HA HA HA HA!

FINISHED !!
...UUUUH...
YOU'VE GOT THAT MAKE-UP TEST IN THE BAG NOW!
I THINK IF YOU CAN SOLVE ALL THOSE, YOU'LL PROBABLY BE FINE.
WHOA, WHOA... IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN THIRTY MINUTES YET, RIGHT?
I'M POOPED.
I'M DONE FOR... I JUST CAN'T KEEP THIS UP.
ROLL ROLL
...WAIT. WHERE'S RITSU?
AND WITH THAT, WE SHOULD PROB-ABLY BE—
SO JUST KEEP GOING A LITTLE WHILE LONGER!
HEY YUI-SAN, I BROUGHT SOME CAKES. LET'S HAVE THEM LATER, OKAY?
SHE'S MAKING HERSELF TOO AT HOME !!
OH CRAP! I'M GONNA LOSE!
BYOING
BYOING
LEAVE IT TO MUGI!!
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!
HMPH!

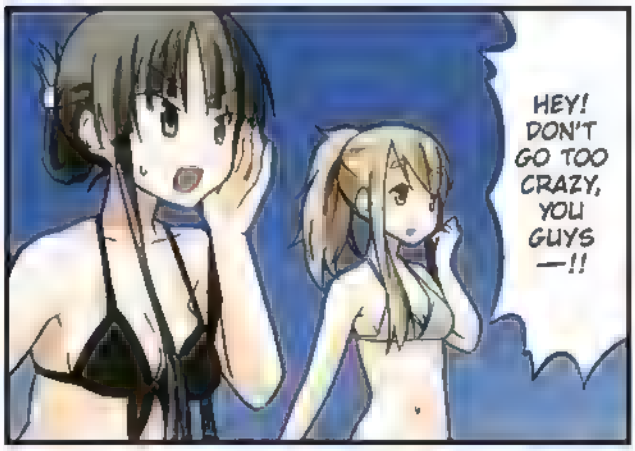
SFX: CLICK CLICK

SFX: SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE

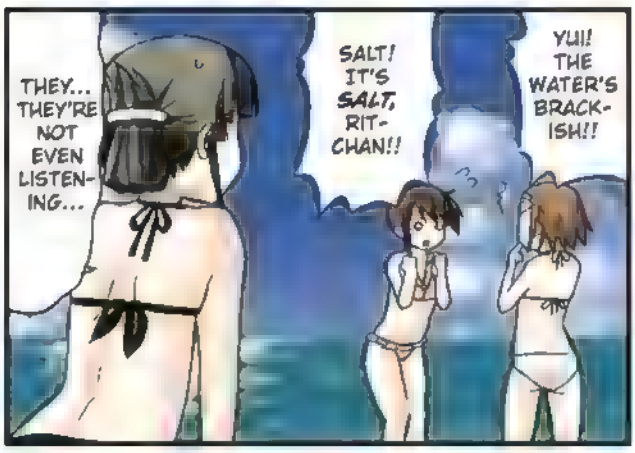
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN.
PHEW...
AT ANY RATE, WE CAN REST EASY NOW...
I WONDER IF YUI'S DOING ALL RIGHT...
THE DAY THE RETEST CAME BACK
YOU DIDN'T DO ANY-THING.
NAH...WE DIDN'T DO ALL THAT MUCH...
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU GUYS FOR HELP-ING ME. THANK YOU SO MUCH!!
H... HOW'D IT GO!?
SLIDE
ガラッ
ALL RIGHT, THEN! LET'S CELEBRATE PASSING THE RETEST BY GOING OUT TO KARAOKE OR SOMETHING!!
YOUR TREAT?
I'M BROKE
EH...YOU FLUNKED IT AGAIN?
TREMBLE
WH... WHAT DO I DO, MIO-CHAN?
TREMBLE
NOW, GETTING HER BACK TO PRACTIC-ING GUITAR IS GONNA BE THE CHAL-LENGE...
YOU DON'T DO ANY-THING HALF-WAY!!
I GOT A HUN-DRED ...
I MUST BE AWESOME...

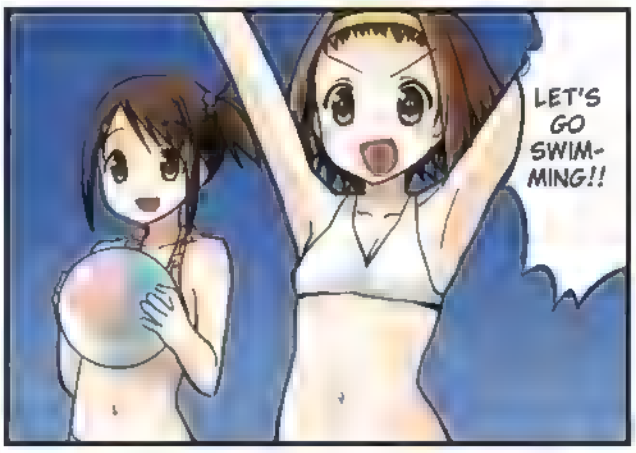
NOW SHE'S SLEEPING WITH HER ANSWER SHEET!?
ZZZZ...

FRAMED!?
100


HEY! DON'T GO TOO CRAZY, YOU GUYS —!!

IT'S THE BEACH!
IT'S SUM-MER!


THEY... THEY'RE NOT EVEN LISTEN-ING...
SALT! IT'S SALT, RIT-CHAN!!
YUI! THE WATER'S BRACK-ISH!!


LET'S GO SWIM-MING!!

...BUT WE HAVEN'T DONE ANY SERIOUS PRACTICING AS A BAND YET, RIGHT?
IT'S BEEN SEVERAL MONTHS NOW SINCE YUI JOINED THE CLUB...
WE'RE GOING ON A CLUB TRIP!!
BEFORE THE SUMMER BREAK
WELL, DON'T WE HAVE THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL RIGHT AFTER SUMMER BREAK?
?
THAT BEING WHAT IT IS...WHY NOW, ALL OF A SUDDEN?
WE'RE NOT GOING FOR A VACATION, YOU GUYS.
ARE YOU SERIOUS!? TO THE BEACH!? THE MOUNTAINS!?
EH? A CLUB TRIP!?
THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL ...!?
SO WE'RE GONNA BE PRACTICING FROM SUNUP TO SUNDOWN!!
THIS TRIP IS TO MAKE OUR BAND BETTER!!
THIS IS THE POP MUSIC CLUB!! WE'RE DOING A CONCERT!!
I THINK WE SHOULD DO A HAUNTED HOUSE!
OOH, OOH! I WANNA DO A MAID CAFÉ!!
LISTEN TO ME —!!
WE'VE GOTTA GET NEW SWIMSUITS TOO!
OOH! WE GOTTA GO BUY SOME CLOTHES FOR THE TRIP!

UHH...
AND, UM... I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY, YOU KNOW.
A CLUB TRIP IS FINE AND ALL, BUT WHERE ARE WE GONNA FIND A HOTEL WITH A SOUND STUDIO?
OH NO..
POK
SHEESH, I WAS JUST JOKING ...
HOW COME I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO GETS HIT ?
M-MUGI? YOU DON'T HAPPEN TO HAVE A VACATION HOUSE, DO YOU...?
BOO!
BOO!
WHA —!?
JUMP
BUT I STILL THINK YOU'D LOOK REALLY GOOD IN A MAID COSTUME, MIO.
ACTU-ALLY, WE DO.
C'MON, IT WAS A JOKE. I'M JUST JOKING.
STEAM
STEAM
HEH HEH HEH
ME? AS A...?
JUST HOW RICH IS SHE ...!?
?
OH, NOW THERE, THERE
RITSU'S BEING MEAN TO ME
UUH OWWW

THAT WAS QUICK !!
WHOO-HOO!!
ALL RIGHT! WE'RE GONNA HAVE SOME FUN!!
TA-DAA

WHOA—!! THIS PLACE IS AMAZING!!

CHARGE—!!
HEY GUYS, WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO PLAY AROUND...
DASH

ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY FOR US TO STAY HERE?
IT'S F-F-FRIGGIN' HUGE !!

ぽつ
LEFT BEHIND
…ん

...BUT MY PARENTS WOULD ONLY LET ME BOR-ROW THE SMALLEST ONE, SO I'M SORRY.
THE TRUTH IS, I WANTED US TO HAVE ONE OF THE BIGGER ONES...

I'M COMING TOO!!
WHERE THE HECK'S MY SWIMSUIT..?
ニヤリ
GRIN

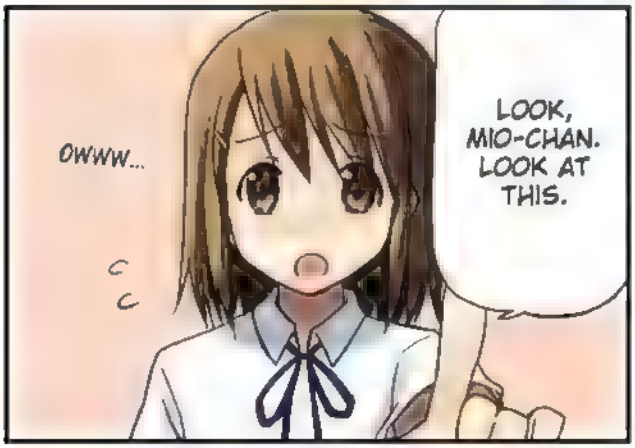
...WAIT, THEY'VE GOT MORE THAN ONE VACATION HOUSE —!?
THIS ONE'S THE SMALL-EST —!?

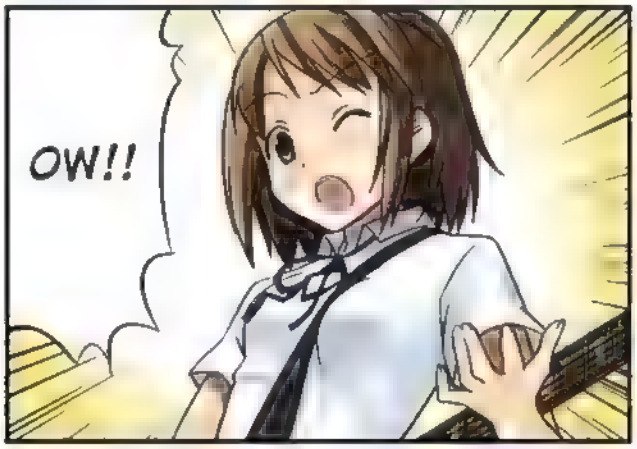
HEEYAH!
HEEYAH!
WHOA, THIS PLACE IS BEAUTI-FUL.
WHEW... THAT WAS FUN...!
OH!! BAND PRAC-TICE!!
?
.....
.....
BOYONG
I SWEAR... YOU AND YOUR WANTING TO GO PLAY, RITSU. NOW WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT...
WELL, WHO WAS THE ONE HAVING THE MOST FUN, HUH?
BWUH!!
TAKE THAT —!!
SMACK

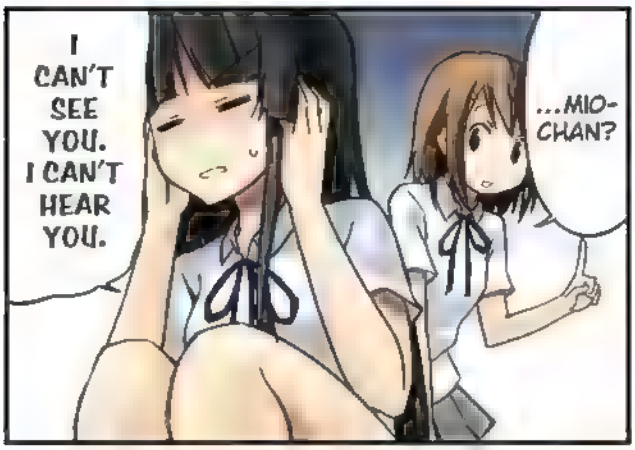
JA-LANG
WOW! WHAT AN AWESOME SOUND STUDIO —!!
EH-HEH-HEH... I'VE BEEN BUSTING MY BUTT PRAC-TICING!
V!
AMAZ-ING! YOU CAN REALLY PLAY NOW!
ぱち CLAP
ぱち CLAP
I THINK WE SHOULD PACK IT IN FOR TODAY.
I'M COM-PLETELY POOPED FROM ALL THE FUN...
PICK UP A FEW EXPERT TECH-NIQUES LIKE THAT, AND YOU'LL BE GOOD TO GO.
WOW, OKAY... ALL THAT'S LEFT NOW IS TO LEARN CHOKING AND SLIDING AND STUFF.
YOU THINK IT'S 'COS YOU HAVEN'T BEEN PLAYING THE DRUMS MUCH LATELY?
...YEAH, SPEAKING OF THAT, I WAS NOTICING SOME-THING AT THE BEACH TODAY. RITSU... HAVE YOU GAINED ANY WEIGHT, BY CHANCE?
SFX: BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM
UM, NO.
SQUEEZE
CHOK-ING? LIKE THIS?
WAHHHHHHH!
GRIN

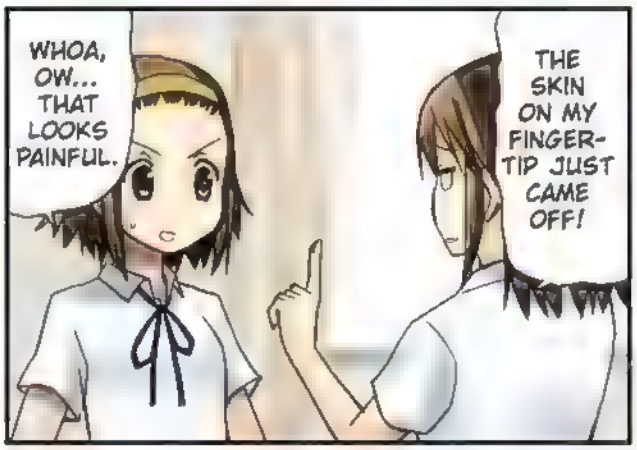
UUUH...
WHEN YOU DO THAT, THE PITCH GOES UP.
"CHOKING" MEANS BENDING THE STRINGS WHILE THEY'RE SOUNDING.
THAT WAS QUICK!! YOU HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN PLAYING THAT LONG...
I CAN'T HOLD THIS GUITAR ANYMORE...
WHOA!!
グワーン
BWWWON
LIKE THIS.
...WHICH IS EXACTLY WHY I TOLD YOU TO BUY A LIGHTER ONE...
ペトーン
FLOP
IT'S 'COS THE GUITAR'S TOO HEAVY ...!!
THAT'S IT. YOU'VE GOT IT.
BWEEN みょーん
BWEEN みょーん
YOURS.
WHOSE BIG IDEA WAS IT FOR ME TO BUY THAT GUITAR, ANYWAY!?
EH!? YOU REALLY THINK IT'S THAT MUCH FUN!?
AH HA HA HA HA HA!

TODAY WAS MY FIRST TIME PLAYING ALONG WITH EVERY-ONE...
YOUR BANGS ARE SO LONG..
IT'S ME
WHEW...
PLAYING MUSIC'S REALLY FUN AFTER ALL, ISN'T IT?
...AND IT WAS SO MUCH FUN!
WHO KNEW SHE HAD AN OUTDOOR HOT TUB ON TOP OF EVERY-THING...
THIS FEELS SO GOOD ...
THANK YOU, MIO-CHAN!!
AND WE OWE IT ALL TO YOU, MIO-CHAN, FOR SUG-GESTING THIS CLUB TRIP!
EH!? UH... UHH...
GRAB
YEAH, YUI-CHAN'S GOTTEN SO GOOD AT PLAY-ING AND EVERY-THING.
BUT I GUESS WE DIDN'T HAVE AS MUCH TO WORRY ABOUT AS WE THOUGHT, HUH?
N... NO I'M NOT...!! I JUST HAD A RUSH OF BLOOD TO THE HEAD...
LOOK AT MIO! SHE'S BLUSH-ING—!!
WHO ARE YOU—!!?
WHICH IS WHY WE SHOULD'VE KEPT HAVING FUN!


OWWW...
LOOK, MIO-CHAN. LOOK AT THIS.


OW!!


I CAN'T SEE YOU. I CAN'T HEAR YOU.
...MIO-CHAN?

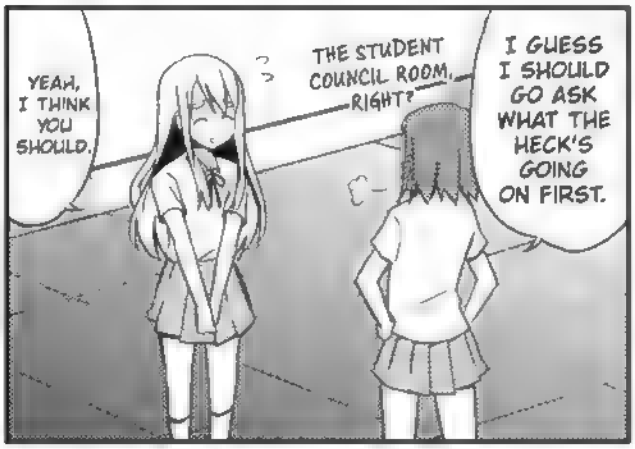

WHOA, OW... THAT LOOKS PAINFUL.
THE SKIN ON MY FINGER-TIP JUST CAME OFF!

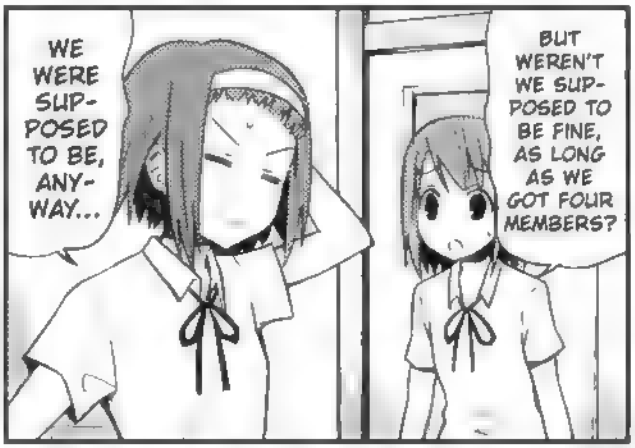
OH YEAH?
DON'T WORRY, YOUR FINGERTIPS GET MORE AND MORE CALLUSED AS THE SKIN COMES OFF.
HEH- HEHHHH?
ガーン
SHOCK
COURSE, THAT DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN YOU'RE GETTING BETTER AT THE GUITAR OR ANYTHING!
JUMP
ビクッ
AAAAH —!! ME TOO! A BLISTER ON MY HAND POPPED FROM PRACTICING THE DRUMS TOO MUCH!!
SFX: SNEAK SNEAK
HM? WHAT'S WRONG?
OH, HEY MUGI.
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
HUH?
THOUGHT YOU GUYS MIGHT BE TALKING ABOUT SEX OR SOMETHING
I... I JUST DIDN'T KNOW IF I SHOULD COME IN...
LOOK!! LOOK!!

OH, HEY THERE, MUGI-CHAN. WHERE'D YOU GO?
HEY GUYS, I FOUND SOMETHING REALLY INTEREST-ING.
Album
I JUST WENT TO TURN IN OUR APPLICATION TO USE THE STAGE AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL...
...BUT WE GOT TURNED DOWN BECAUSE APPARENTLY THE POP MUSIC CLUB HASN'T BEEN OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED AS A SCHOOL CLUB YET.
WHAT'S THIS?
?
LOOK, CHECK IT OUT.
MAN...
WHOA, THIS PICTURE'S CRAAAAZY..
WHOA... THESE ARE OFF THE HOOK.
LOOKS LIKE POP MUSIC CLUB PICTURES FROM A LONG TIME AGO.
HUH?
THIS IS PRETTY MUCH EXACTLY HOW I PICTURED THE POP MUSIC CLUB...
Y-YEAH, I GUESS SO...
IT'S LIKE A "WHAT DECADE DID THIS BAND COME FROM!?" KINDA THING, HUH?

YOU REALLY THINK SO?
W-WELL, NOBODY'S SAID ANYTHING ABOUT IT SO FAR, SO I GUESS WE'RE FINE. YEAH, IT'S GOTTA BE OKAY...

I-I'M SORRRRRY-
YOU SHOULD BE MORE WORKED UP ABOUT THIS!!
DID YOU JUST SAY THEY DON'T RECOG-NIZE THE POP MUSIC CLUB AS AN OFFICIAL SCHOOL CLUB!?


YEAH, I THINK YOU SHOULD.
THE STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM, RIGHT?
I GUESS I SHOULD GO ASK WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON FIRST.


WE WERE SUP-POSED TO BE, ANY-WAY...
BUT WEREN'T WE SUP-POSED TO BE FINE, AS LONG AS WE GOT FOUR MEMBERS?

OH... WELL, IF YOU WANT MIO...
...WAIT. COME TO THINK OF IT, WHERE'S MIO IN ALL THIS?

...IF WE'RE NOT EVEN AN OFFICIAL CLUB...
BUT MORE THAN THAT...

SNAP OUT OF IT!!
... SHE'S STILL FREAK-ING OUT.
SFX: TREMBLE TREMBLE

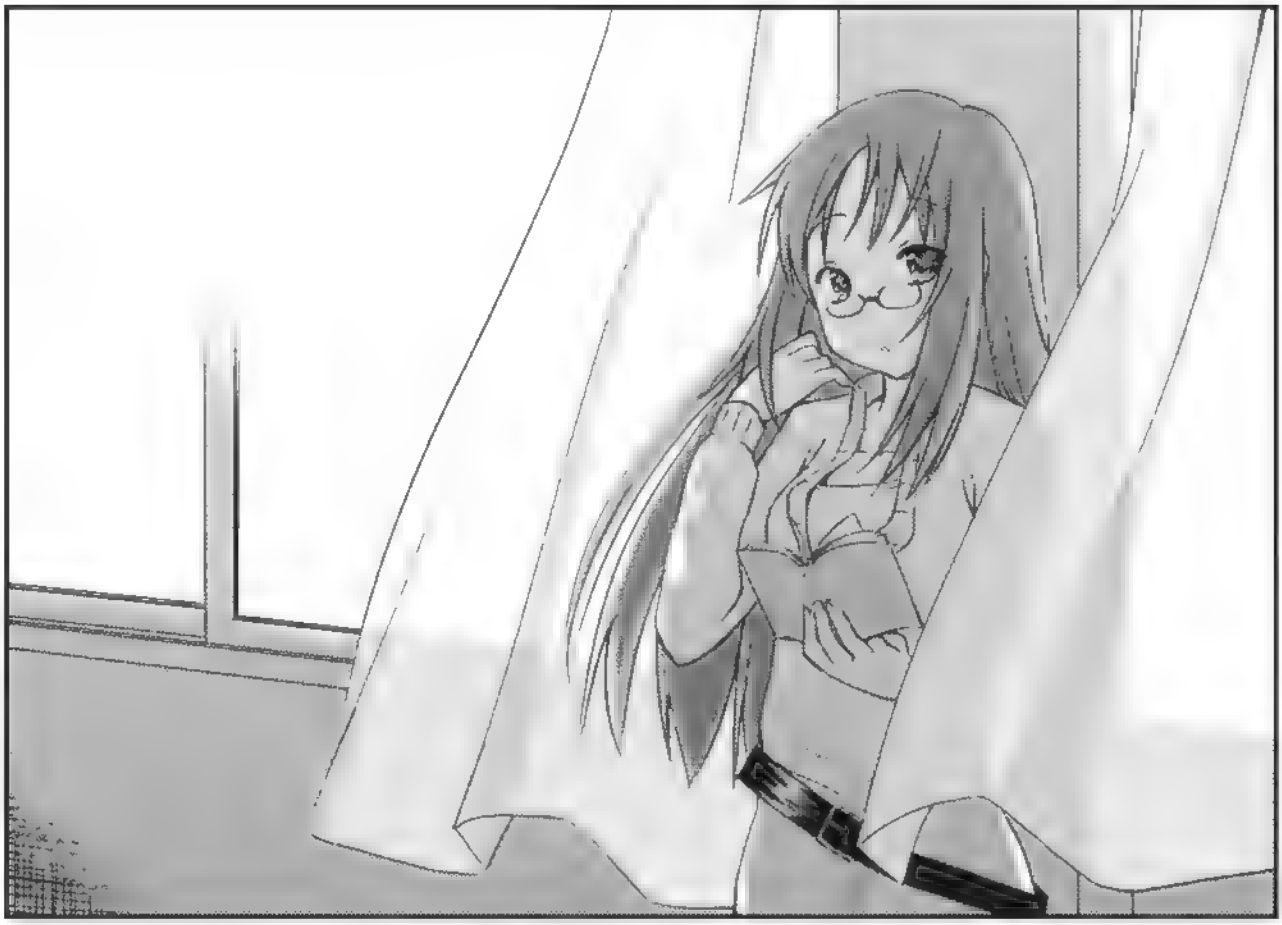
TEA SET BROUGHT FROM HOME
...WILL IT BE OKAY THAT WE MADE OUR-SELVES AT HOME IN THE MUSIC ROOM...?

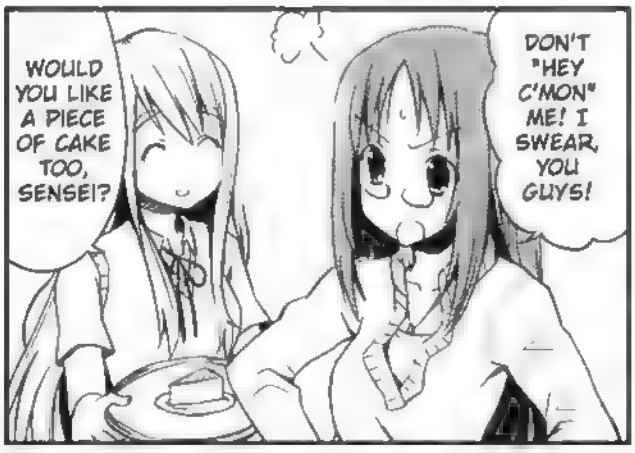
JUST A GUESS, BUT MAYBE YOU NEVER TURNED IN YOUR CLUB APPLICATION FORM ...?
...YEAH, LOOKS LIKE THE POP MUSIC CLUB ISN'T ON THE CLUB LIST AT ALL.
WHO'S THERE?
THE STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM
OH...I FORGOT.
"I'M GONNA BE CLUB PRESIDENT, SO I'LL TURN IT IN!"
OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT
... SPEAKING OF WHICH, WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO TURN THAT IN, RITSU?
HI, NODOKA-CHAN.
OH YUI, IT'S YOU.
.....
.....
PULLLLL
むにぃ～～～～
OH OH.
OH OH OH.
THEN IT'S YOUR FAULT, JUST LIKE I THOUGHT!
NICE TO MEET YOU
YEAH, EVER SINCE WE WERE LITTLE.
YOU GUYS ARE FRIENDS?
HWUH?
I DUNNO HOW TO SAY THIS...BUT I THINK THE POP MUSIC CLUB SUITS YOU PERFECTLY, YUI.
ARE YOU GUYS REALLY FRIENDS?
YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT UNTIL JUST NOW...!?
YEP.
WOW, NODOKA... SO I GUESS YOU'RE ON THE STUDENT COUNCIL, HUH?

...OH, SO THAT'S WHY YOU KEEP TRYING TO BUTTER ME UP.
ACTUALLY, WE WANT YOU TO BE THE FACULTY ADVISER FOR THE POP MUSIC CLUB.
SHE'S THE MUSIC TEACHER AT OUR SCHOOL.
MISS SAWAKO YAMANAKA
TAP
TAP
I'M ALREADY THE FACULTY ADVISER FOR THE WIND INSTRUMENTS CLUB, AND I CAN'T REALLY DO TWO CLUBS AT THE SAME TIME...
...I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T.
...SHE'S POPULAR NOT JUST WITH STUDENTS, BUT WITH THE OTHER TEACHERS AS WELL.
OH, IS THAT RIGHT?
WITH HER LOVELY LOOKS AND GENTLE DEMEANOR ...
AND YOU KNOW WHAT, SENSEI?
I'M REALLY VERY SORRY.
.....
.....
...UM...
NOT TO MENTION HER AMAZING SINGING VOICE AND MAD SKILLS ON MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.
L-LIKE I SAID, IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD TO BUTTER ME UP!
SHE'S BEEN WOOED AND COURTED BY COUNTLESS MEN...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT?
SHE'S SO POPULAR THAT SHE HAS HER OWN FAN CLUB.

...WOW YUI, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU RECOGNIZED HER...
SEE? THE GIRL IN THIS PICTURE'S YOU, ISN'T IT?
HM? WHAT IS IT?
STARE
THAT'S... UM, UNEXPECTED.
IT'S TRUE... I WAS IN THE POP MUSIC CLUB WHILE I WAS A STUDENT HERE...
HUH? WELL, YEAH, I DID, BUT... WHY DO YOU ASK?
SENSEI, DID YOU GRADUATE FROM THIS HIGH SCHOOL?
PLEASE PLAY SOMETHING FOR US!
THAT MEANS YOU CAN PLAY THE GUITAR, HUH!
BECAUSE ONE OF THE PICTURES WE JUST SAW IN THE POP MUSIC CLUB SCRAPBOOK LOOKS A LOT LIKE YOU...
JUMP
SHE'S SUDDENLY GOT A DIFFERENT LOOK IN HER EYES —!?
... WELL, I GUESS YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE...
EH...? WH-WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
E-EVERYONE TO THE MUSIC ROOM, NOW!!

BACK TO NORMAL
...
UUUUH
...
SHRED-DING!?
SFX: BEELEELEE BOOLOOLOO
I PROMISED MYSELF I'D ACT LADYLIKE SINCE I'M A TEACHER NOW...
すび
SNIFF
TAPPING !?
SFX: RORIRO BIRORIRO
...
SENSEI
...
すSSK
ぐすっ
SNIFF
ぐすっ
SNIFF
MY GUITAR
...
ギターアイ
PLAY-ING WITH HER TEETH !?
SFX: WAH-EEEEN
RIT-CHAN HAS SOME SERIOUS GUTS!!
UNLESS YOU WANT US TO TELL EVERYONE ABOUT THIS, YOU'RE GONNA BE OUR FACULTY ADVIS-ER.
W-WE'RE REALLY SORRY!!
I KNEW IT!
YOU GUYS ARE MAKING YOURSELVES TOO AT HOME IN THE MUSIC ROOM—!!




WOULD YOU LIKE A PIECE OF CAKE TOO, SENSEI?
DON'T "HEY C'MON" ME! I SWEAR, YOU GUYS!

EVEN THOUGH YOU BASICALLY FORCED ME TO BE YOUR ADVISER ...
ALL RIGHT, NOW THAT WE'VE GOT OUR FACULTY ADVISER, ALL WE GOTTA DO IS BUCKLE DOWN AND PREPARE FOR THE SHOW!

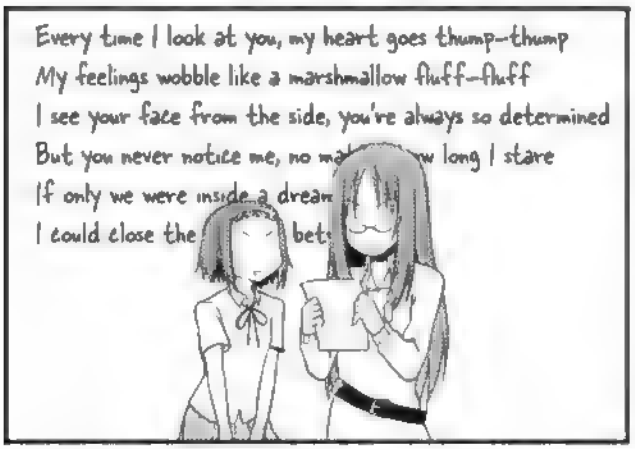
I'LL HAVE ONE!!

HEY C'MON THERE, TEACH! DON'T BE SO STUFFY!
...AND YOU'RE STILL USING THE MUSIC ROOM AS YOUR OWN PERSONAL PLAYROOM...

JA-JANG
I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK—WHAT SONG ARE YOU GUYS GONNA PLAY AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL?
MM... YUMMY.
PHEW—WHAT'D YOU THINK, SENSEI?
HERE, HAVE SOME TEA
WE'RE STILL PRACTIC-ING IT.
OH, WE WERE THINKING OF DOING ONE THAT WE WROTE OUR-SELVES.
THERE'S A LOT OF THINGS I COULD POINT OUT, BUT, UM...FOR START-ERS...
UM, YEAH ...
...I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO AT THIS POINT.
I MEAN, YOU'VE ALREADY HAD THE CAKE AND EVERY-THING
HEY SENSEI, WOULD YOU MIND WATCHING US PERFORM IT?
UH!
...DON'T YOU HAVE A VOCAL-IST?
I THINK WE'RE FINE.
AND WHILE WE'RE AT IT, I'LL TEACH YOU SOME ON-STAGE STUNTS YOU CAN USE DURING THE PERFOR-MANCE...
HEH-HEH-HEH...

NOW LET'S SEE HERE...

UM... WELL, I ACTUALLY DID WRITE SOME LYRICS.
おず…
SHY
AND IF YOU'RE DOING YOUR OWN SONG, DON'T YOU ALSO NEED TO MAKE UP SOME LYRICS?


Every time I look at you, my heart goes thump-thump
My feelings wobble like a marshmallow fluff-fluff
I see your face from the side, you're always so determined
But you never notice me, no ma… w long I stare
If only we were inside a dream
I could close the bet

UM...BUT THEY'RE KINDA EMBAR-RASS-ING...
WOW... SHOW US! SHOW US!

O God, please
Give us our own "Dream Time"
Holding my favorite bunny tight
Tonight as always I say goodnigh
Fluff-fluff tim fluf

IRK
IRK
HUH...!? C'MON, SHOW US!
B...BUT...

SHOCK
I GOT GOOSE BUMPS.
UUUGH... MY WHOLE BODY... ITCHES ...!!

UH!
SNATCH
JUST SHOW 'EM, ALREADY!

EH... BUT DID YOU HEAR THIS?
IT SAYS "FLUFF-FLUFF TIME" HERE..
YES!!
P-PER-SONALLY I THINK THEY CAME OUT PRETTY GOOD...
I LOVE YOUR LYRICS! I LOVE 'EM!
R... REALLY?
GRAB
BUT I GUESS THEY SUCK ...
TEARY
UH...!!
WH-WHAT DO YOU THINK, MUGI?
NOT EXACTLY "SUCK," BUT... UM... WELL?
FRET
HEY YUI. GET OVER HERE AND SAY SOME-THING!
I THINK THEY'RE WONDER-FUL...
IS SHE SERIOUS —!?
SHE'S TOTALLY CAPTI-VATED BY THEM —!?

N-NO, I DON'T.
"SAWA-CHAN"?
WELL, YOU DON'T THINK THESE LYRICS'LL WORK, DO YOU, SAWA-CHAN?
OH YES.
...YOU LIKED THEM TOO, MUGI?
HOLD ON A SEC ...
HEY EVERY-ONE. I THINK WE SHOULD THINK A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT THIS...
I DO.
SERI-OUSLY, YOU REALLY THINK THEY'D WORK?
...IT MIGHT JUST IM-PROVE MY IMAGE!
IF I TELL PEOPLE I LIKE SILLY BUBBLY SONGS LIKE THIS...
...THEY'RE BOTH JUST SO INTO EACH OTHER.
BECAUSE THEY'RE BOTH SO...
*MUGI'S VISION
WHAT!?
BUBBLY
I... I THINK I LIKE THESE LYRICS TOO—!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
IF THEY'RE BOTH OKAY WITH IT, THEN WHAT'S THE HARM IN IT!?

IF MIO'S NOT GONNA DO IT, THEN ...
YAAAAY!
OH, ALL RIGHT. I GUESS WE GO WITH THESE LYRICS, THEN...
OHH HO HO
WHA —? ME!?
...YUI. YOU WANNA GIVE IT A TRY?
EH!?
ピクッ
JUMP
IN THAT CASE, MIO'S GONNA DO THE VOCALS.
I'M NOT SURE IF I'M QUITE THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE JOB...
B-BUT I'M NOT REALLY SO GOOD AT SING-ING...
WHY NOT?
B...BUT THERE'S NO WAY!
WAIT! I'LL DO IT!! I WANNA BE THE SINGER!!
ALL RIGHT. MUGI, WHAT ABOUT YOU?
あっさり
BLUNT
HEY, MISS I-WROTE-THEM...
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD POSSIBLY SING THOSE EMBARRASS-ING LYRICS!

I JUST CAN'T SING AND PLAY GUITAR AT THE SAME TIME...
ズーン
GLOOM
ROGER!!
ビシ
WHIP
OKAY, THEN. TRY SING-ING US SOME-THING!
SSK
I GUESS THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO...
YUI, WAIT. WAIT.
EVERY TIME I LOOK AT YOU...
SENSEI!!
YOUR SENSEI'S GONNA GIVE YOU SPECIAL ONE-ON-ONE TRAINING FOR A WHOLE WEEK!!
GRAB
AH, I FOR-GOT.
YOU'VE GOTTA DO IT WHILE PLAY-ING THE GUITAR.
NO, THAT'S OKAY.
SO THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IS HOW TO PLAY WITH YOUR TEETH
NOW YOU'RE FORGET-TING TO SING.
JANG
JANG
JANG

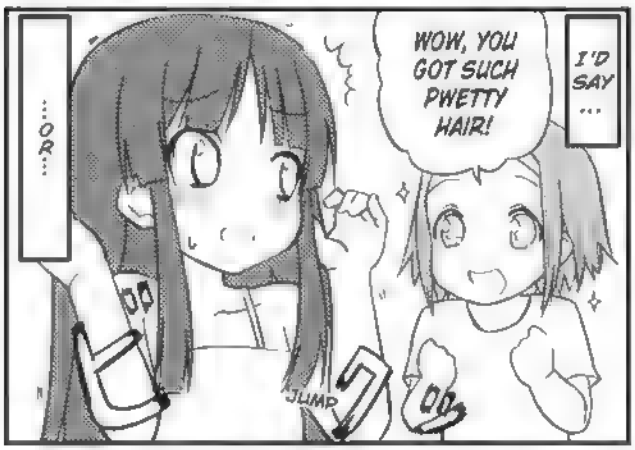
THAT'S NO GOOD!!
MY VOICE IS A LITTLE HOARSE. ☆
YEAH... I GUESS I MADE HER PRACTICE A LITTLE TOO MUCH. ☆
ONE WEEK LATER
HI EVERYONE! SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING!!
SLIDE
HRMMMM...
SO WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO FOR A VOCALIST, THEN?
NOD
AND NOW I PRESENT... YUI-CHAN!!
MWEH?
I GUESS WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE. MIO WROTE THE LYRICS, SO SHE'S GOTTA DO IT.
WHOA—!! SHE'S GOTTEN BETTER AT GUITAR!!
WAH-EEEEN
THREE DAYS TO THE SHOW...
WHOOOA!!
PAINT
EVERY TIME I LOOK AT YOU MY HEART GOES THUMP-THUMP...

RIGHT!!
HERE WE GO! NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO PROVE HOW HARD WE'VE BEEN PRACTICING!!
WHOA...
MURMUR
わい
THE DAY OF THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL
HUH?
SNEAK
UH... UM, RITSU ...?
THERE'RE TONS OF PEOPLE OUT THERE...
I'M GETTING REALLY NERVOUS.
HEH-HEH-HEH... THAT LOOKS REALLY GOOD ON YOU, MIO-CHAN. ♡
HOW CAN YOU BE SO RELAXED WHEN WE'RE WEARING THESE STUPID OUTFITS —!!?

I REALLY WONDER...
STAGGER
STAGGER
THREE HOURS EARLIER —
OKAY, JUST CARRY THIS ON DOWN TO THE GYM.
...WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE AMPS ARE SO DANG HEAVY...?
PHEW.
HEY, THAT THING'S HEAVY, SO BE CAREFUL.
WHOA!!
DRAG
OH, I'VE GOT MIO WORKING ON SOMETHING ELSE.
...WAIT. COME TO THINK OF IT, WHERE'S MIO-CHAN?
SFX: WOBBLE WOBBLE
UH... SHE'S NOT EVEN BREAKING A SWEAT!!
AH...
I HAVE TO SING.
TRYING TO GET MIO TO CARRY ANY EQUIPMENT IN HER CURRENT STATE IS JUST ASKING FOR TROUBLE!
SMASH

YEAH, SHE WAS.
WAS MIO-CHAN ALWAYS SO SHY, EVEN WHEN SHE WAS LITTLE?

GOOD JOB.
AHHH... WE'RE ALL DONE WITH THE EQUIP-MENT!


...OR...
WOW, YOU GOT SUCH PWETTY HAIR!
I'D SAY ...
JUMP

WE KNEW WE COULD COUNT ON YOU, MUGI-CHAN!!
HERE, YOU TWO. I MADE SOME TEA FOR YOU.

...THEN...
AWESOME! YOU'RE A LEFTY! HEY EVERYONE, MIO-CHAN'S AWESOME!
SHOCK
ガーン

SURE. I MEAN, WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE WE WERE BABIES.
HEY RIT-CHAN, YOU KNOW MIO-CHAN PRETTY WELL, DON'T YOU?

BUT THOSE INSTANC-ES WERE YOUR FAULT, NOT HERS!!
AH-HA-HAH
...SHE'D TURN BEET-RED, SHE'D BE SO EMBAR-RASSED —!

SO NOT SINCE YOU WERE BABIES, THEN.
WE'VE BEEN IN THE SAME SCHOOLS EVER SINCE KINDER-GARTEN... OR, WAIT. MAYBE IT'S JUST SINCE GRADE SCHOOL ...?

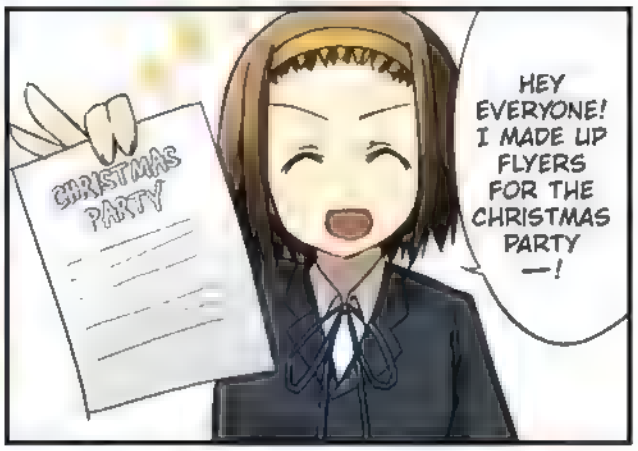
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY-MORE ...
GLOOM
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO? YOU CAN'T GO ON STAGE LIKE THAT.
AH, MIO-CHAN.
YOU GUYS FINISHED MOVING ALL THE EQUIP-MENT?
ガラ
SLIDE
...THEN WHO'D PLAY THE DRUMS?
RITSU, SWITCH WITH ME! YOU CAN DO VOCALS IN-STEAD!
HM?
OH? YOU SEEM UN-USUALLY RELAX-ED.
THEN WHO'D BE PLAYING BASS!?
I'LL PLAY THE DRUMS!
I'M NOT SUCH A CHILD, YOU KNOW.
HERE, HAVE SOME TEA
I MEAN, CONSIDER-ING HOW OPPOSED YOU WERE TO DOING THE VOCALS.
WHOA-HOA! WE'LL HAFTA TAKE YOU UP ON THAT ONE!!
I'D ACTUALLY LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY!!
I'LL DO THAT TOO!!
WHADDAYA MEAN? YOU'RE SHAKIN' LIKE A LEAF!
RATTLE
RATTLE
AFTER ALL, I CAN'T SPEND MY WHOLE LIFE SHAKING IN FEAR.

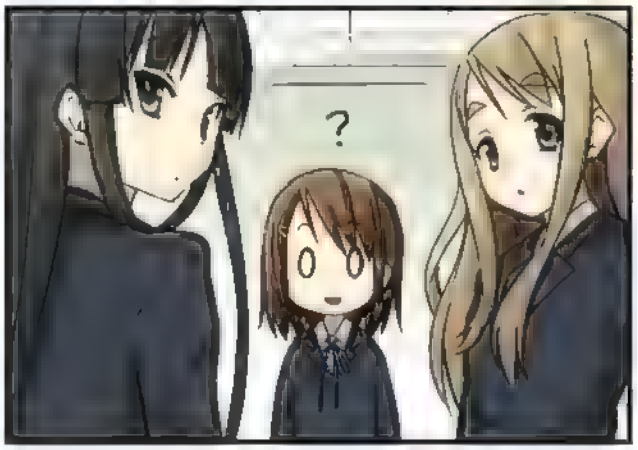
UHH... SENSEI, WE REALLY APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT AND ALL, BUT...
I SEE EVERYONE'S ASSEMBLED!!
LEGGO OF ME!
ガラッ
SLIDE
I THINK THIS MIGHT NOT BE THE BEST TIME...
I'M GONNA HAFTA SING WHILE WEARING THAT...!?
HEH HEH HEH...
YOU'VE GOT SOME CAKE ON THE SIDE OF YOUR MOUTH
HM? WHAT'S GOING ON, SENSEI?
HUH...SO YOU'RE SAYING YOU DON'T REALLY LIKE IT...?
コク NOD
コク NOD
...I THOUGHT I SHOULD DO SOMETHING TO HELP YOU GUYS OUT, SO...
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN AGAINST MY WILL, BUT SINCE NOW I'M THE FACULTY ADVISER FOR THE POP MUSIC CLUB...
IN THAT CASE, HOW ABOUT THE COSTUME I MYSELF WORE BACK IN THE DAY?
UHH...! I REALLY WANT TO WEAR THE FIRST ONE, YES, I DO!!
SHE'S TOTALLY INTO THIS!!
...I MADE COSTUMES FOR EVERYONE!!

CHATTER
わい
CHATTER
わい
SHOW TIME
WHIP
ぴしっ
STOP, SAWA-CHAN!
YO!!
ALL RIGHT, EVERY-ONE! LET'S DO THIS!!
TH-THAT'S RIGHT!
IT'S NOT JUST MIO— WE'RE ALL EMBAR-RASSED ABOUT WEARING THESE COS-TUMES!!
ARE YOU STILL NER-VOUS?
ひょこっ POP
ぶるる TREMBLE
ぶるる TREMBLE
... AND BE-SIDES ...
OH REALLY...? BUT I WORKED SO HARD ON THEM...
WELL, I'M OFF!!
I KNOW! I SHOULD DO YOUR MAKEUP SO NO ONE'LL BE ABLE TO TELL IT'S YOU, MIO-CHAN.
HEH HEH HEH
YOU GUYS —!!
MWUH?
...YUI AND TSUMUGI SEEM HAPPY ENOUGH WEARING THEM.

WAHHH HHHH!!
カ CLACK!!
ONE... TWO...
カ CLACK
THREE ... FOUR ...!!
MIO-CHAN!!
I...I CAN'T DO IT ...!!
ジャラァァン
JA-LANG
MIO-CHAN, I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN PRAC-TICING REALLY HARD!
WAHHHH!!
EVERY TIME I LOOK AT YOU, MY HEART GOES THUMP-THUMP...
NOW C'MON, LET'S JUST DO OUR BEST!
SO YOU'RE GONNA BE FINE!

GREAT JOB YESTERDAY, EVERYONE!
THE NEXT DAY
I GUESS THIS MEANS MIO FINALLY CONQUERED HER SHYNESS.
Thanks, everybody!!
てれ SHY
WELL...
てれ SHY
YUI, YOU WERE PRETTY DANG GREAT CONSIDERING IT WAS YOUR FIRST LIVE PERFORMANCE.
KYAAN!!
FWOP
SNAG
WHOA—! AWESOME!!
MIO-CHAN FAN CLUB
MEMBERS WANTED
AND IT LOOKS LIKE MIO'S EVEN GOT HER OWN FAN CLUB NOW!
...EH?
ざわ MURMUR
OW, OW, OW, OW...
ざわ MURMUR
どよーん DOOM
...OF COURSE THE "STAR" HERSELF IS COMPLETELY INCAPACITATED...
AND WITH THAT, THIS YEAR'S SCHOOL FESTIVAL CAME TO A CLOSE.
Noooooo!!
SAKURAGAOKA HIGH SCHOOL FESTIVAL


CHRISTMAS PARTY
HEY EVERYONE! I MADE UP FLYERS FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARTY —!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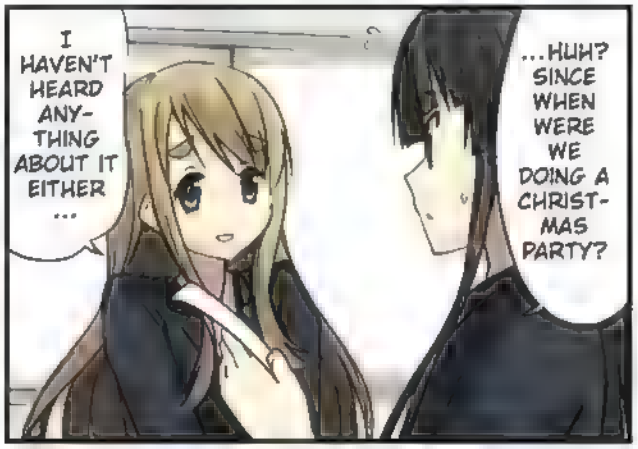
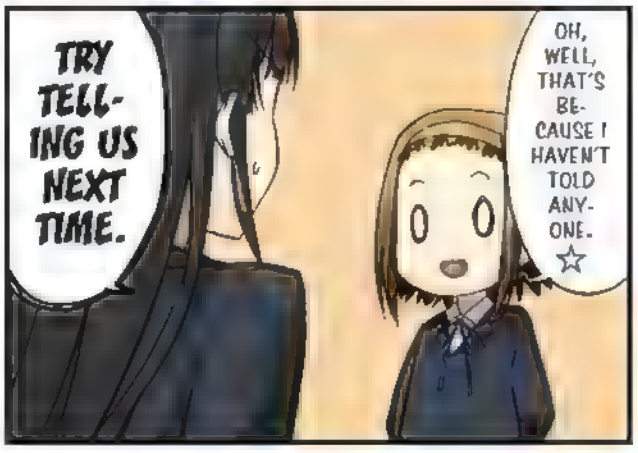
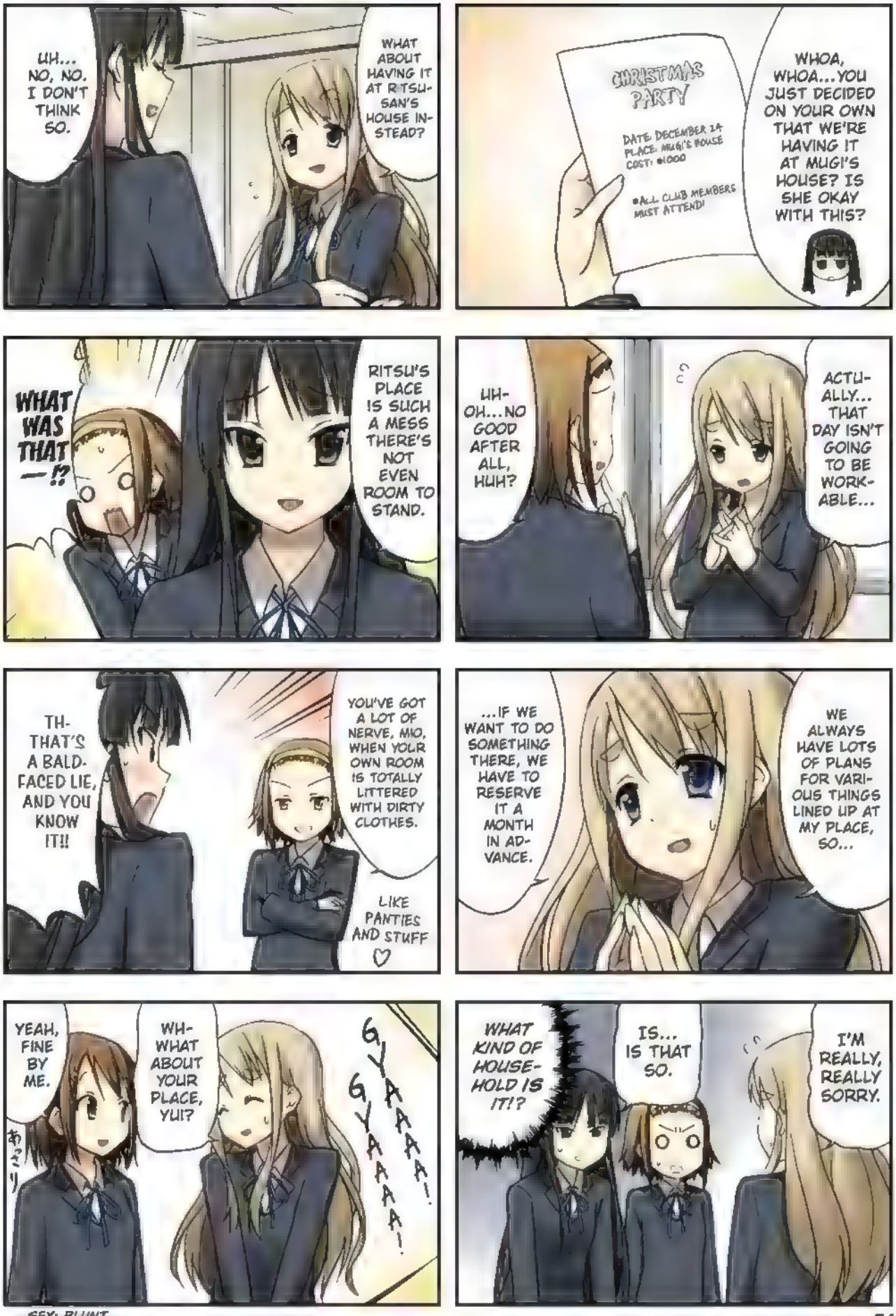

I HAVEN'T HEARD ANY-THING ABOUT IT EITHER ...
...HUH? SINCE WHEN WERE WE DOING A CHRIST-MAS PARTY?

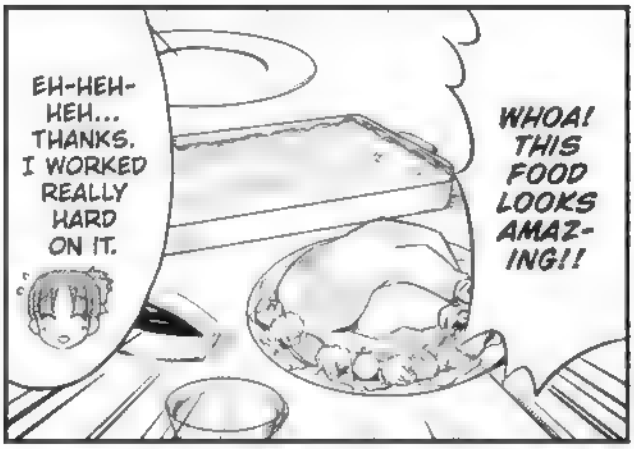

TRY TELL-ING US NEXT TIME.
OH, WELL, THAT'S BE-CAUSE I HAVEN'T TOLD ANY-ONE. ☆

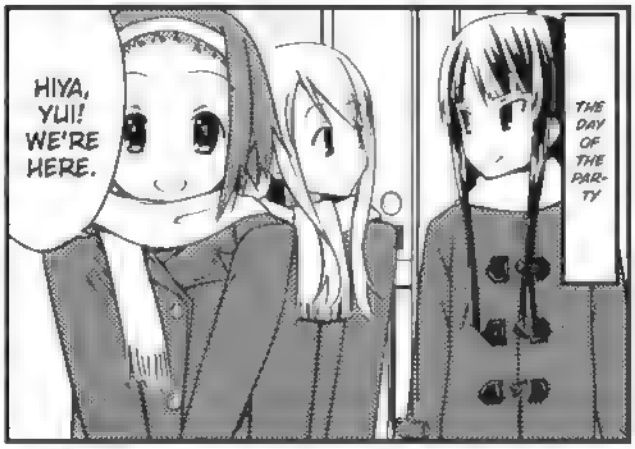

UH... NO, NO. I DON'T THINK SO.
WHAT ABOUT HAVING IT AT RITSU-SAN'S HOUSE IN-STEAD?
CHRISTMAS PARTY
DATE: DECEMBER 24
PLACE: MUGI'S HOUSE
COST: ¥1000
*ALL CLUB MEMBERS MUST ATTEND!
WHOA, WHOA...YOU JUST DECIDED ON YOUR OWN THAT WE'RE HAVING IT AT MUGI'S HOUSE? IS SHE OKAY WITH THIS?
WHAT WAS THAT—!?
RITSU'S PLACE IS SUCH A MESS THERE'S NOT EVEN ROOM TO STAND.
UH- OH...NO GOOD AFTER ALL, HUH?
ACTU-ALLY... THAT DAY ISN'T GOING TO BE WORK-ABLE...
TH- THAT'S A BALD-FACED LIE, AND YOU KNOW IT!!
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVE, MIO, WHEN YOUR OWN ROOM IS TOTALLY LITTERED WITH DIRTY CLOTHES.
LIKE PANTIES AND STUFF ♡
...IF WE WANT TO DO SOMETHING THERE, WE HAVE TO RESERVE IT A MONTH IN AD-VANCE.
WE ALWAYS HAVE LOTS OF PLANS FOR VARI-OUS THINGS LINED UP AT MY PLACE, SO...
YEAH, FINE BY ME.
あっさり
WH- WHAT ABOUT YOUR PLACE, YUI?
GYAAAA! GYAAAA!
WHAT KIND OF HOUSE-HOLD IS IT!?
IS... IS THAT SO.
I'M REALLY, REALLY SORRY.

SFX: BLUNT

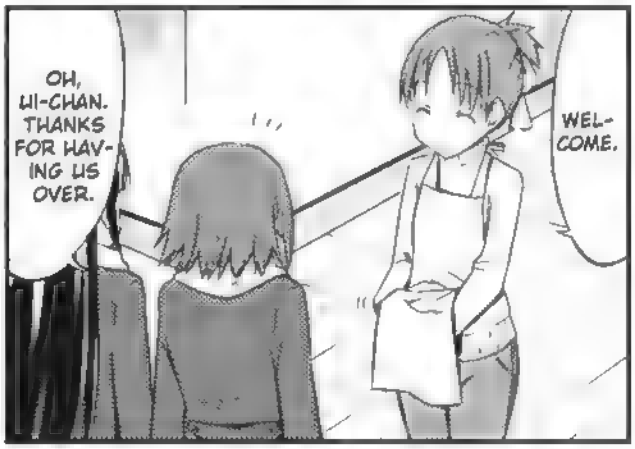
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THAT ...?
JUST LEAVE ALL THE COOKING TO ME!
SURE. MY PARENTS ARE GONNA BE GONE THAT DAY, ANYWAY.
BUT IS IT REALLY OKAY IF A BUNCH OF US COMES BARGING IN ON YOUR CHRIST-MAS?
GOOD IDEA!
OOH! LET'S DEFI-NITELY DO A PRESENT EX-CHANGE!
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE RIGHT.
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, YUI'S PARENTS WEREN'T THERE THE LAST TIME WE WENT THERE EITHER.
... SHOULDN'T WE BE TELLING YOU THAT?
AND MIO, DON'T GO BRINGING ANYTHING WEIRD FOR US!
UH, NO. IT'S NOTH-ING LIKE THAT. IT'S JUST...
DO THEY BOTH WORK OR SOME-THING?
YEAH, DIDN'T SEE THAT ONE COM-ING...
ONE TIME IN GRADE SCHOOL, I GOT THIS PRESENT FROM RITSU, AND WHEN I OPENED IT...
ビョーン
BOIYOIYOING
A LOVEY-DOVEY MARRIED COUPLE!!
HO HO HO
HEE HEE HEE
...THE TWO OF THEM ARE CON-STANTLY GOING OFF ON TRIPS TOGETH-ER...
THEY SAID THEY'RE GOING TO GERMANY FOR CHRISTMAS

NODOKA-CHAN AND I WENT OUT SHOPPING TOGETHER FOR PRES-ENTS FOR THE PRESENT EXCHANGE.
AH!
WOOO... IT'S GOTTEN COLD, HUH?
ON THE WAY HOME
OH, LOOK. THIS ONE IS SO CUTE... ♡
YOU GUYS ON YOUR WAY HOME NOW TOO, YUI?
NODOKA-CHAN.
BUT THERE'S NO GUARANTEE YOU'RE GONNA GET THAT ONE IN THE EXCHANGE, RIGHT?
HEY, NODOKA-CHAN. I'M GONNA GO WITH THIS LITTLE GUY.
UM... EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT A MEMBER OF THE CLUB?
OH, I HAVE AN IDEA!! NODOKA-SAN, WHAT DO YOU SAY TO COMING TO THE POP MUSIC CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY?
HEY.
ちょこん
WHAP
AH, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT... IN WHICH CASE, THIS ONE HERE'S GOOD ENOUGH.
AND WHAT ARE YOU PLAN-NING ON DOING WITH THAT MONEY?
AND THE MORE PEOPLE WE GET, THE MORE MONEY WE HAVE FOR THE PARTY
IT'S TOTALLY FINE! AFTER ALL, YOU'RE YUI'S FRIEND!


EH-HEH-HEH... THANKS. I WORKED REALLY HARD ON IT.
WHOA! THIS FOOD LOOKS AMAZ-ING!!


HIYA, YUI! WE'RE HERE.
THE DAY OF THE PAR-TY

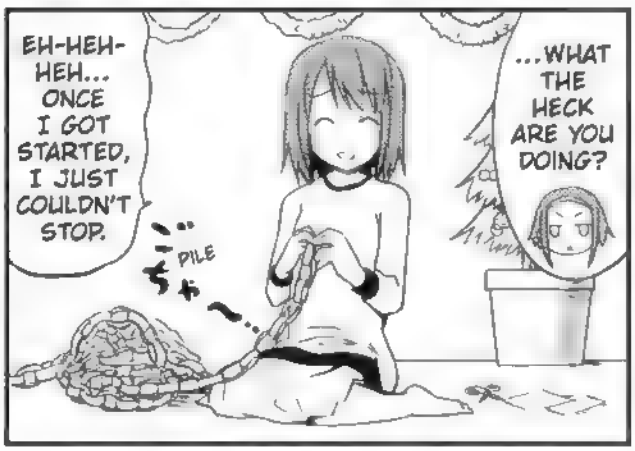
WHAT A THING TO SAY!! I HELPED TOO, YOU KNOW!
AH...I GUESS I SHOULDA KNOWN UI-CHAN'D BE DOING THE COOK-ING.


OH, UI-CHAN. THANKS FOR HAV-ING US OVER.
WEL-COME.

WHOA! AWE-SOME !!
THIS CAKE!
SO WHICH ONES DID YOU MAKE, YUI?

HI EVERY-ONE! COME ON IN ...
WHERE'S YUI?
NODOKA-SAN SAYS SHE'LL BE A LITTLE LATE.

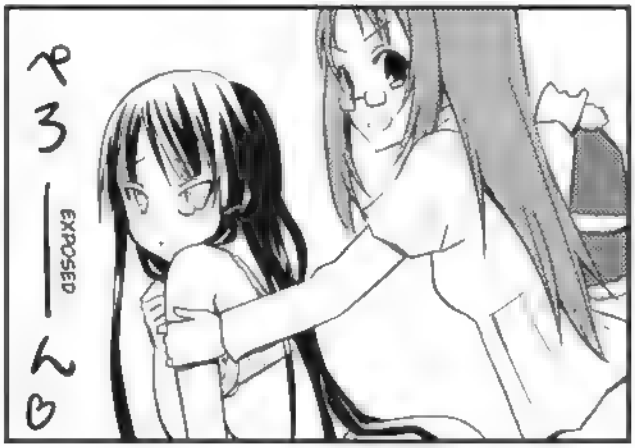
...THEN I TAKE BACK MY "AWE-SOME!" ...
...I PUT ALL THE STRAW-BERRIES ON TOP.


EH-HEH-HEH... ONCE I GOT STARTED, I JUST COULDN'T STOP.
PILE
...WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING?

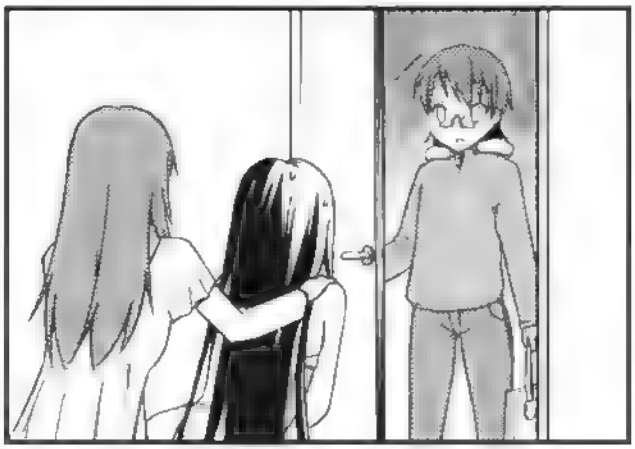
UH... YEAH, WELL... IT'S NOT LIKE WE FORGOT TO...
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GUYS DIDN'T EVEN INVITE YOUR FACULTY ADVISER! WHAT'S THE DEAL?
...CHRISTMAS!!
MERRY...
THAT'S WHY WE DIDN'T INVITE YOU!
WE JUST ASSUMED YOU ALREADY HAD PLANS WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND.
SHEESH ...YOU SOUND LIKE AN OLD MAN.
WOW... ANOTHER YEAR'S ALMOST GONE!
もぐ MUNCH
もぐ MUNCH
HER DITZINESS IS A SIGHT TO BEHOLD...
ぎゃーーっ STRETCH
HUH—?
IS THIS THE MOUTH THAT SPEWS THOSE HATEFUL WORDS!?
THAT WAS GOOD. CAN I HAVE SOME MORE?
WHOA—! SAWA-CHAN!?

BUT I HAVE TO RUN AWAY FROM YOU!!
HEY!! DON'T RUN AWAY FROM ME!!
SORRY I'M LATE, GUYS.
CRASH
BANG

WHY DO YOU HAVE AN OUTFIT LIKE THAT WITH YOU?
AS PUNISH-MENT, YOU NEED TO CHANGE INTO THIS OUTFIT, YUI.


EXPOSED

H-HOW DOES IT LOOK?

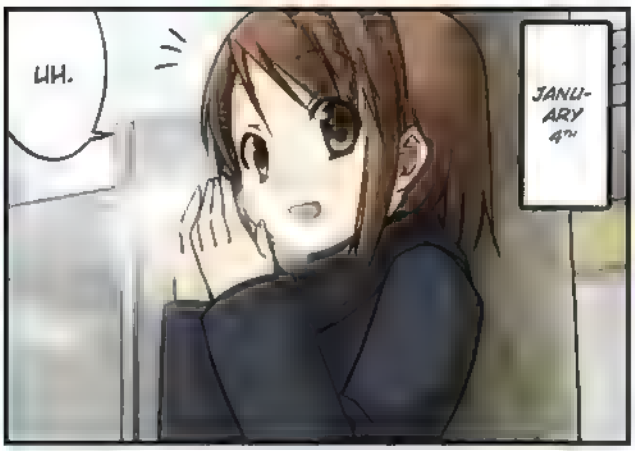


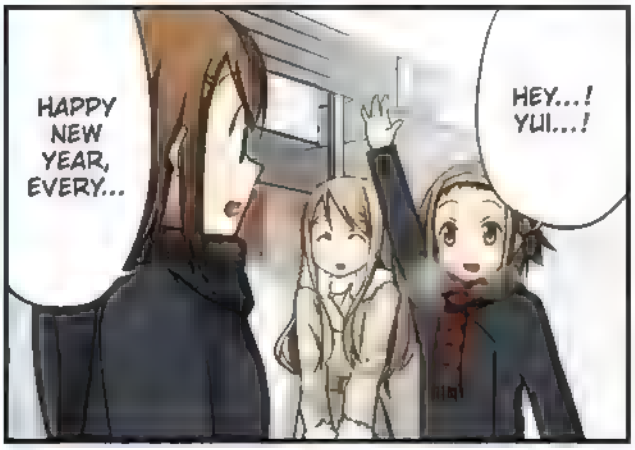
YUI, YOU JUST DON'T LOOK BASHFUL ENOUGH!
SHOCK
...NOT GOOD!

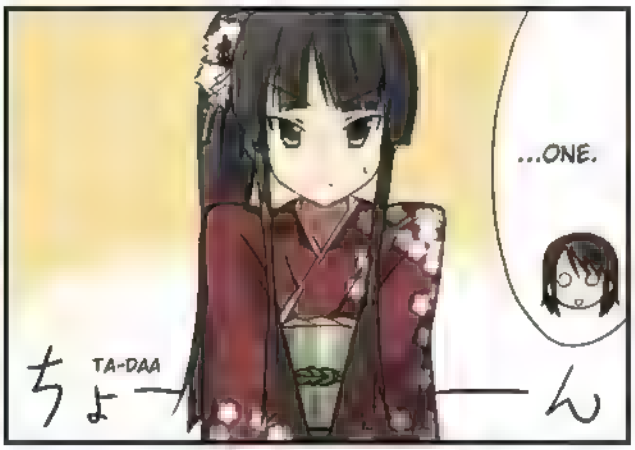
NO, THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE!!
I'M SORRY! I THINK I CAME TO THE WRONG PLACE...
HELP ME!!
SLAM

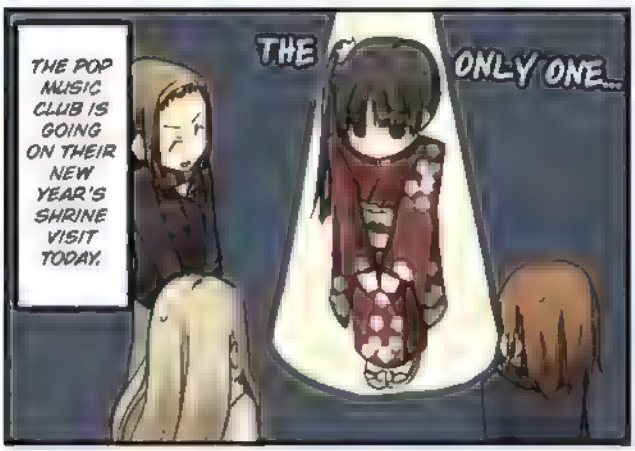
HYEEH!?
JUMP
...FOR SOME-THING LIKE THIS, WE'VE GOTTA GO WITH...

UH... OKAY...
I DON'T CARE ANY-MORE!
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GET IT STARTED!!
GOOD IDEA.
I'M DAMAGED GOODS NOW..
LET'S DO THE PRESENT EXCHANGE TO CHANGE THE MOOD!
UH... SENSEI, WAIT! THAT ONE'S ...!!
I PICKED MIO-CHAN'S.
I'VE GOT IT COV-ERED.
UM... BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, SENSEI ...?
ぴよーん
BOIYOING
ぴよーん
BOIYOING
WHOA... NOW THAT'S OUR TEACHER!!
SEE? I EVEN CAME PRE-PARED WITH A GIFT!
OH NO...! SENSEI'S CRACK-ING UP!!
...AH-HA-HA-HA-HA!! PERFECT!! THIS IS JUST THE BEST CHRISTMAS EVER—!!
THE AIR'S TOO HEAVY!!
...OF COURSE, I WAS ACTUALLY SUPPOSED TO BE GIVING THIS TO MY BOYFRIEND TODAY...


UH.
JANU-
ARY
4TH


HAPPY
NEW
YEAR,
EVERY...
HEY...!
YUI...!


...ONE.
TA-DAA
ちょーーーん


THE POP
MUSIC
CLUB IS
GOING
ON THEIR
NEW
YEAR'S
SHRINE
VISIT
TODAY.
ONLY ONE...

OH, COME ON.
I'M GOING HOME TO CHANGE.
NO! THAT'S NOT WHY!!
I CAN SEE YOU'RE REALLY GETTING INTO THE NEW YEAR.
I THINK YOU LOOK REALLY CUTE.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE WAY YOU LOOK NOW?
...SO I ASSUMED FOR SURE SHE'D BE COMING DRESSED UP TOO...
Are you gonna come dressed up tomorrow?
ON THE PHONE YESTERDAY, RITSU ASKED ME...
TOTALLY!!
R... REALLY?
Hi
SHOCK
ALL I ASKED IS WHETHER YOU WERE COMING DRESSED UP, RIGHT?
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE THE SAME AS EVER TOO.
SIGH...
WHAT A NICE SIGHT TO RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH.
LOOKS LIKE MIO'S GONNA BE PLAYING THE SAME POSITION THIS YEAR...
GYAAA!!
GYAAA!!

ME?
WHAT WAS YOUR NEW YEAR'S LIKE, YUI?
IT'S FUNNY, THOUGH— I THOUGHT FOR SURE YOU'D BE COMING ALL DRESSED UP, MUGI...
YEAH ...
YUI SEEMS LIKE THE KIND OF PERSON WHO'D JUST LIE AROUND THE WHOLE TIME.
WELL, I THOUGHT ABOUT IT...
YEAH, RIGHT. I DON'T THINK EVEN YUI'S QUITE THAT LAZY ...
...LIKE SPENDING ALL DAY EVERY DAY SITTING WITH HER LEGS UNDER THE HEATED TABLE!
WE WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR
...BUT I'VE BEEN WEARING NOTHING BUT MY BEST CLOTHES THE ENTIRE NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY...
IT'S TRUE!?
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
WERE YOU SPYING ON ME?
WE'RE NOT WORTHY.
...SO THIS IS ACTUALLY THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR I'VE GOTTEN TO WEAR A REGULAR OUTFIT.

SO YUI, YOU PROBABLY GAINED A LITTLE WEIGHT OVER NEW YEAR'S, RIGHT?
HM? WHY WOULD I?

NEW YEAR'S DAY
HERE'S YOUR NEW YEAR'S BREAKFAST BOX, ONEE-CHAN

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHY"...? BECAUSE ALL YOU WERE DOING WAS EATING AND SLEEPING THE WHOLE TIME...
OH.

JANUARY 2ND
HOW MANY RICE CAKES DO YOU WANT?

I NEVER GAIN ANY WEIGHT, NO MATTER HOW MUCH I EAT.

JANUARY 3RD
HERE YOU GO I PEELED YOUR TANGERINE FOR YOU

YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!!
ET TU, MUGI-CHAN!?

AND THAT'S WHAT MY NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY WAS LIKE.
WHAT ARE YOU, SOME KIND OF GRANDMA?
I WANT YOUR SISTER.

YES?
SAY, MUGI...
WHISPER
ポソ
ポソ
WHISPER
YOU ENDED UP EATING TOO MUCH, HUH?
IT'S JUST 'COS THERE ARE SO MANY PARTIES AROUND NEW YEAR'S...
I GAINED (WHISPER) KILOS
HOW MANY KILOS DID YOU GAIN?
DID YOU EAT TOO MUCH OVER NEW YEAR'S TOO, MIO-CHAN?
IT MUST BE NICE, GETTING TO GO TO PARTIES LIKE THAT ...
WELL I GAINED... (WHISPER)...KILOS.
THEN I GUESS IT'S JUST YOUR CONSTITUTION?
I DON'T THINK I ATE TOO MUCH IN PARTICULAR...
HEY YUI... YOU SHOULD AT LEAST APOLOGIZE...
WAAAAAAH...
FWWWWAP

THE SLEEVE SLAP

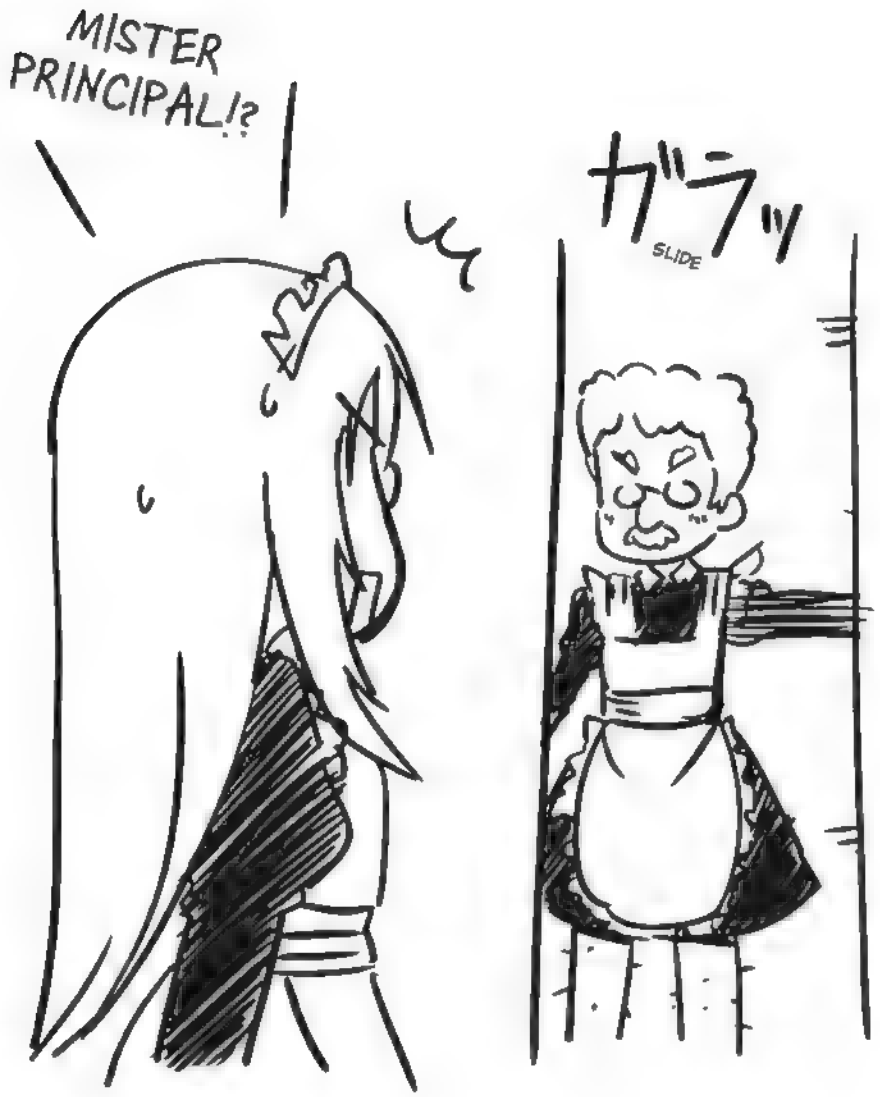
WHOA... NOW SHE'S GETTING A FORTUNE?
SHAKE
SHAKE
HM?
WE'RE FINALLY HERE AT THE SHRINE...
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
OH, IT IS.
WAIT... ISN'T THAT SAWA-CHAN?
...SHIT.
WAIT
LET'S JUST LEAVE HER ALONE.
OOH... SHE'S GRABBING A NEW ONE.
SHAKE
SHAKE
HOW LONG IS SHE GONNA KEEP PRAYING ...?

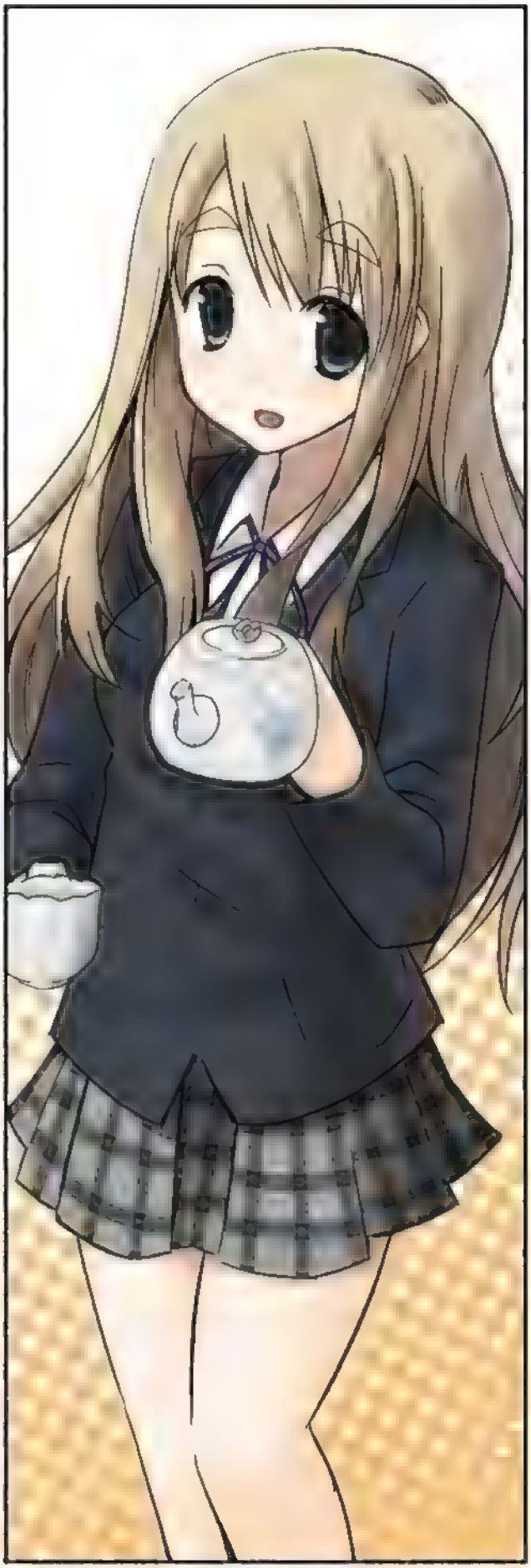
DO OVER
WHY...?
ガラ
CLANG
ガラ
CLANG
I PRAYED THAT WE'D GET SOME NEW MEMBERS.
I PRAY-ED THAT WE'D GET BETTER IN OUR PERFORMANCES.
パン
CLAP
CLAP
パン
CLAP
WHAT ABOUT YOU, YUI?
THAT I'D BE ABLE TO EAT A LOT MORE OF THE LITTLE CAKES THAT MUGI-CHAN BRINGS.
HEY EVERYONE, WHAT'D YOU GUYS WISH FOR?
I WISHED FOR THE WELL-BEING OF MY FAMILY.
PLEASE LET ME GET BETTER ON GUITAR ...
POP
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT.
...C'MON GUYS, PRAY FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE POP MUSIC CLUB ...
FOR ME TO BE ABLE TO EAT LOTS OF YUMMY FOODS!
にょ
...FOR ME TO LOSE WEIGHT.

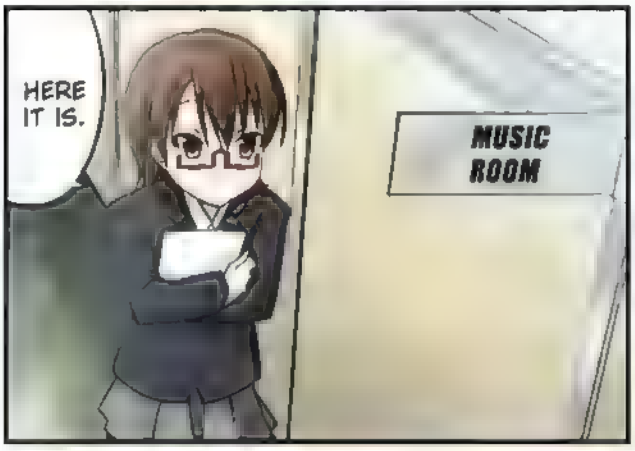
SFX: FIDGET FIDGET

COME ON, LET'S GO TIE THEM UP.
MWO-KAY-
HEY, I WENT AND GOT ENOUGH FORTUNES FOR ALL OF US.
WHO ASKED YOU TO DRAW OUR FOR-TUNES !?
THIS ONE CORNER SURE SEEMS TO HAVE AN AWFUL LOT OF FORTUNES TIED TO IT, HUH?
BUNCH
HM?
I SWEAR ...
...OH.
TWIST
TWIST
"BAD"
ME THREE
OH, ME TOO.
I GOT "BEST" ON MINE.
AAH! YOU GUYS SCARED THE CRAP OUT OF ME!!
JUST HOW MANY FOR-TUNES DID YOU DRAW !!?
JUMP
HEY! SORE LOSER !!
GIVE IT BACK !!
YANK

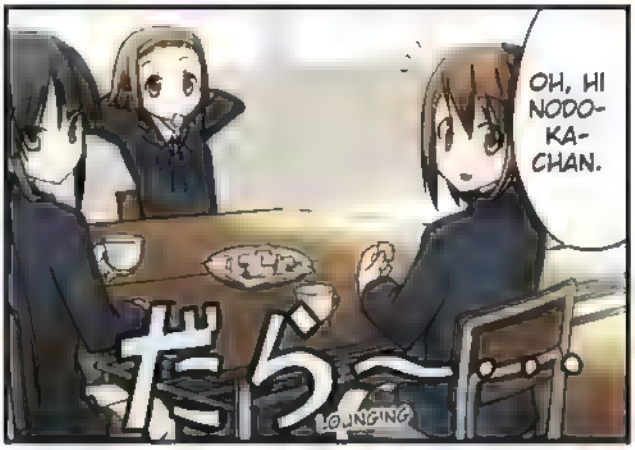
I STILL LOOK GOOD IN THIS...
MIRROR
...

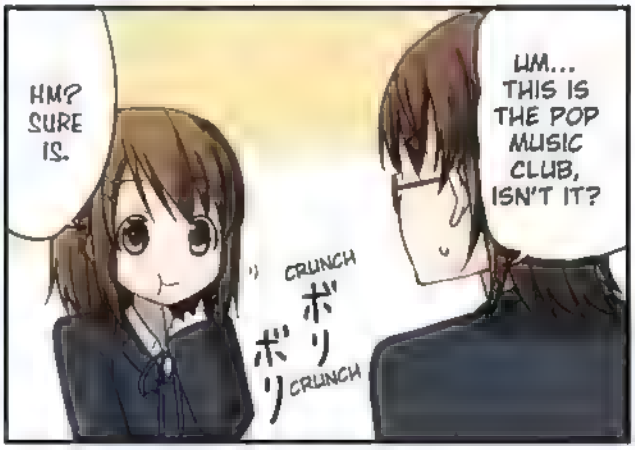

MISTER PRINCIPAL!?
ガラッ
SLIDE




HERE IT IS.
MUSIC ROOM

EXCUSE ME, EVERY-ONE...


OH, HI NODO-KA-CHAN.
だら～
LOUNGING


UM... THIS IS THE POP MUSIC CLUB, ISN'T IT?
HM? SURE IS.
CRUNCH
ボリ
ボリ
CRUNCH

OKAY, THEN ...
げっぷ
BURP
... ABOUT THAT MESSAGE I HAVE FOR YOU ...
I'M HERE TODAY BECAUSE I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU GUYS FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL...
THE TRUTH IS...
...THE POP MUSIC CLUB MAY END UP BEING DISBANDED.
EH? NO, I MEAN...
OH, COME ON. DON'T JUST STAND THERE.
CAN I GET SECONDS, MUGI-CHAN?
SURE.
BUT... YUI?
OKAY, SIT DOWN RIGHT HERE.
OH SORRY. I DIDN'T HEAR WHAT YOU JUST SAID.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
...I'M STARTING TO SEE THE REASON WHY.
BUT LISTEN —
WE HAVE COFFEE AND TEA. WHICH DO YOU PREFER?
BUT, YOU GUYS —
THE CAKES THAT MUGI-CHAN BRINGS ARE REALLY, REALLY GOOD, YOU KNOW.

BUT WAIT! WE'RE DOING WHAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO DO!!
WELL, TAKE THE CHOIR CLUB, FOR INSTANCE. THEY'RE ALWAYS DOING SOME KIND OF CLUB ACTIVITY, LIKE COMPETING IN CONTESTS AND STUFF.
WH-WHY WOULD THE POP MUSIC CLUB BE DISBAND-ED?
EXACTLY!
WE'RE DOING INDE-PENDENT PRACTICE AT HOME AND STUFF.
WHAT!? WE'RE DOING PLENTY OF CLUB STUFF!!
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU GUYS ARE JUST ALWAYS DRINKING TEA.
BUT THE POP MUSIC CLUB DOESN'T SEEM TO BE DOING ANYTHING IN THE WAY OF CLUB ACTIV-ITIES.
EXACTLY!!
AND WE EVEN WENT ON A CLUB TRIP DURING SUMMER BREAK.
AND BESIDES THAT?
FOR EXAMPLE, WE DID A LIVE PER-FORMANCE AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL!
THERE'S NO POINT IN HAVING A SCHOOL CLUB IF PEOPLE DON'T SEE WHAT IT DOES ...
AHEM!
WE'RE DOING EVERY-THING WE'RE SUPPOSED TO, JUST IN WAYS THAT PEOPLE CAN'T SEE!
AND NOTHING ELSE, HUH...?
...WE, UH... WELL, THERE WAS THE SCHOOL FESTI-VAL—

...SO IF YOU GUYS CAN SHOW THE COUNCIL SOME ACTUAL CLUB ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM NOW ON, I'M SURE IT'LL BE FINE, OKAY?
SHAKE
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE ANYTHING'S BEEN OFFICIALLY DECIDED YET...
SHAKE
WAAH!!
NODOKA-CHAN!!
YEAH, FOR EXAMPLE, COMPETING IN A CONTEST, OR GETTING MORE MEMBERS, OR SOMETHING.
ACTUAL CLUB ACCOMPLISHMENTS?
"SOME WAY" ...?
GIVEN YOUR INFLUENCE, ISN'T THERE SOME WAY YOU CAN WORK THIS OUT FOR US?
OHH, YUI... YOU HAVE A GOOD IDEA?
AH, WELL, IN THAT CASE, NO PROBLEM.
FLASH
I'M NOT JOINING.
EVERYONE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER NODOKA-CHAN. ♡
A BRIBE!?
CAKE
HERE. IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT WE HOPE YOU ENJOY IT...

WHOA, THERE. CALM DOWN, YUI.
UH- WUH- WUHHH
WH- WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO, MIO- CHAN?

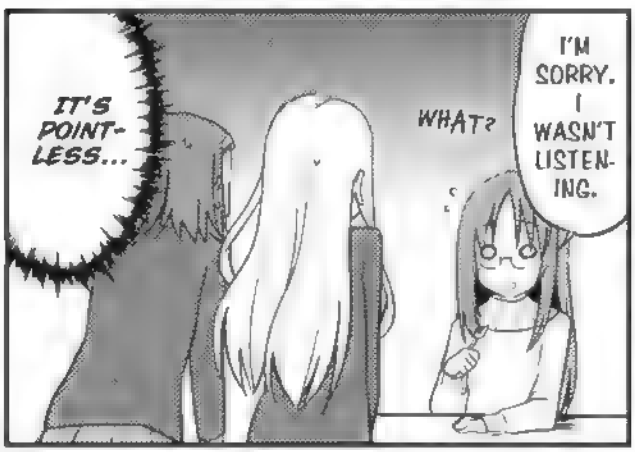
GOOD LUCK, GUYS.
OKAY, THEN. I SAID WHAT I CAME HERE TO SAY, SO I GUESS I'LL BE GOING NOW.

WAIT! SAWA- CHAN WAS HERE THE WHOLE TIME!!?
GET IN THE CONVERSATION, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE!!
GIVEN THAT YOU'RE A TEACHER, ISN'T THERE SOME WAY YOU CAN WORK THIS OUT FOR US?

DON'T BE SO MEAN, NODOKA- CHAN-!!

EH?
BLANK

WHAT, YOU HAVE SOME- THING ELSE TO SAY?
NOW, YOU JUST WAIT RIGHT THERE —!!


IT'S POINT- LESS...
WHAT?
I'M SORRY. I WASN'T LISTEN- ING.

YEAH, LIKE I SAID, I'M GOOD.
HERE ...

YUI ...
BUT I'VE GOTTEN TO BE SUCH GOOD FRIENDS WITH EVERYONE BECAUSE OF THE POP MUSIC CLUB... I JUST CAN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF IT GOING AWAY...
SENSEI, YOU'VE GOT SOME CAKE ON YOUR CHEEK
AH, THANKS.
...DON'T GET SO DOWN IN THE MOUTH ABOUT IT, GUYS.
ALL YOU'VE GOTTA DO IS PUT ON A SHOW AT THE NEXT FRESHMAN ORIENTATION CEREMONY AND RECRUIT SOME NEW MEMBERS, RIGHT?
LISTEN, SAWA-CHAN— ARE YOU REALLY A POPULAR TEACHER AT THIS SCHOOL?
...WOW. SHE'S RIGHT.
WELL...IT'S JUST THAT IT GETS REALLY TIRING HAV-ING TO PUT ON A GOOD FACE FOR EVERYONE.
SAWA-CHAN, THAT WAS ALMOST LIKE A REAL TEACH-ER...!
AH, WELL... YOU'RE TOO KIND...
IT WASN'T A COMPLI-MENT.
I'D LOVE THE CHANCE TO SHOW EVERY-ONE "THE REAL YOU"...
STRETCH
THE POP MUSIC CLUB IS LIKE AN OASIS OF THE SOUL, A PLACE WHERE I CAN BE THE REAL ME.

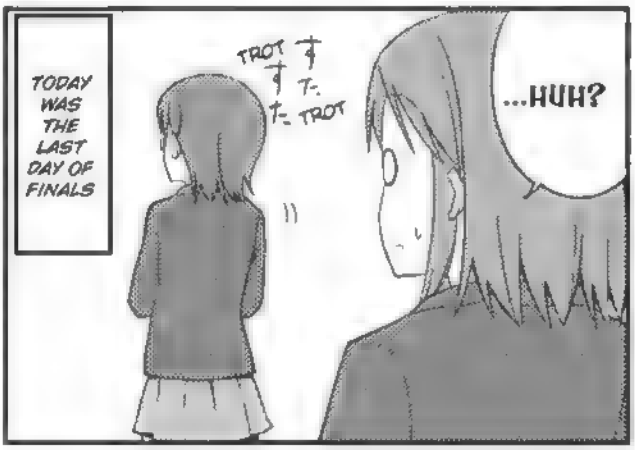
NOT A...
...CHANCE IN HELL!!
TOTALLY!!
SO I GUESS OUR ONLY CHOICE IS TO GO BACK TO BUSINESS AS USUAL, HUH!
NO WAY!
BUT MIO, DIDN'T PEOPLE REALLY LIKE YOUR VOCALS LAST TIME?
YO!!
SLAP
ALL RIGHT, THEN! LET'S PRACTICE HARD IN PREPARATION FOR THE FRESHMAN ORIENTATION!
NO WAY!!
THE WHOLE SEEING-YOUR-PANTIES THING
I'M TELLING YOU, THAT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.
EH!?
ビク!!
JUMP
OH, AND WE'RE GONNA NEED YOU ON VOCALS AGAIN, MIO.
WOW... THAT IS ONE STUBBORN REFUSAL.
NO WAY!!
RIVER.
NO WAY!!
MOUNTAIN.
NO. WAY.
C'MON, HIGH FIVE!
COME AN' GIT SOME!

I FEEL SO ASHAMED
I GUESS IT'S TO BE EXPECTED—WE HAVEN'T PRACTICED AT ALL AS A BAND LATELY...
HAVEN'T YOU ALL FORGOTTEN SOMETHING?
FU FU FU
SO I WONDER WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO FOR A VOCALIST, THEN...
I WONDER WHETHER WE CAN ACTUALLY PULL OFF A REAL PERFORMANCE AT THIS POINT.
AND ON TOP OF IT ALL, MIO'S STILL IN THAT STATE...
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!!
REMEMBER, YUI-CHAN HERE DID THAT CRASH COURSE IN VOCALS RIGHT BEFORE THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL!!
NOT TO WORRY.
OKAY, HERE GOES.
LET'S GIVE IT A TRY. SING US SOMETHING WHILE YOU PLAY.
YEAH, I DON'T THINK SO!!
A CRAPPY PERFORMANCE COULD ACTUALLY HELP YOU BECAUSE THEN THE FRESHMAN'LL THINK, "HEY, EVEN I COULD DO AT LEAST THAT WELL"!
NOW SHE'S FORGOTTEN HOW TO PLAY GUITAR—!!
... WHAT'S THE FINGERING FOR A C-CHORD AGAIN?

ZZZZ

MWHA ...?
キーン
DING
コーン
DONG

I GUESS YOU HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO SPARE, HUH.
I'LL GO AHEAD AND TAKE YOUR ANSWER SHEET NOW
HNNNNNN
AHH... I FELL ASLEEP ...


TODAY WAS THE LAST DAY OF FINALS
TROT
TROT
...HUH?

PLAYING GUITAR!
SO... WHAT WERE YOU DOING, THEN?
ACTUALLY, I'M PRETTY AMAZED YOU COULD SLEEP LIKE THAT IN CLASS.
AAH.
I'VE BEEN REALLY BUSY PRACTICING FOR THE FRESHMAN ORIENTATION PERFORMANCE.
YEAH, OF COURSE!
IT SHOWS JUST HOW HARD YOU'VE BEEN STUDYING FOR THE TEST.
THAT WAY WE CAN GET SOME NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN...
OUR GOAL IS TO WORK REALLY HARD TO MAKE THE FRESHMAN ORIENTATION PERFORMANCE A SUCCESS.
スタ STEP
スタ STEP
IT'S NOT LIKE IT WAS MY IDEA OR ANYTHING.
ビシ WHIP
...AND PUT YOU TO SHAME, NODOKA-CHAN, FOR TRYING TO SQUASH OUR POP MUSIC CLUB!!
I KNOW YOU DIDN'T— YOUR ANSWER SHEET WAS COMPLETELY BLANK.
...I LIED JUST NOW. ACTUALLY, I DIDN'T STUDY FOR THE TEST AT ALL...

CALM DOWN. IF IT'S JUST ONE OR TWO SUB-JECTS ...
AS IF IT WEREN'T BAD ENOUGH THAT THE POP MUSIC CLUB'S ALREADY IN A PRE-CARIOUS POSI-TION...!
ジャラァァン
JA-LAAANG
どよ～～ん
GLOOM
EH-HEH-HEH... WELL, I'VE BEEN PRACTIC-ING THIS SOLO FOR TWO WHOLE WEEKS NOW.
EH HEH HEH
WOW... YOU'VE GOTTEN WAY BETTER ON GUITAR.
YOU'RE NOT SAYING ...IT'S NOT ALL YOUR SUB-JECTS, IS IT?
コクリ
NOD
...BUT YOU'VE BEEN STUDY-ING FOR TESTS TOO, RIGHT?
FOR TWO WEEKS..?
MIO!?
ふらー
FAINT
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN!?
シーん
SILENCE

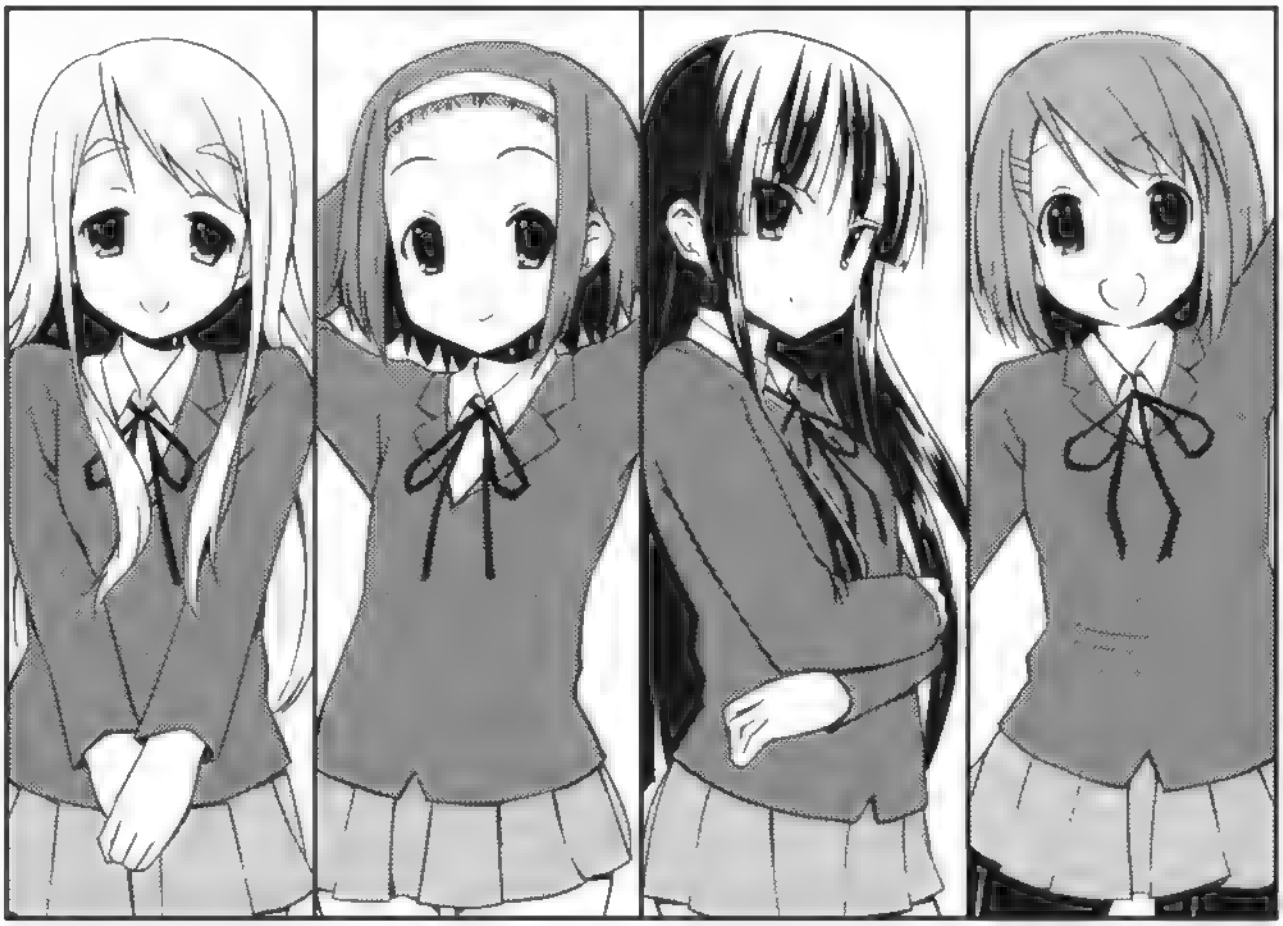
WAHH!!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT, GIRLS!!
ガラッ
SLIDE
YUI-CHAN... ARE YOU EVEN GONNA BE ABLE TO PASS THIS GRADE?
I GOT THEM TO LISTEN TO OUR SIDE.
BADUM
BADUM
D-DON'T S-SCARE US LIKE THAT, SAWA-CHAN...!
SFX: BUBBLE BUBBLE
...BECAUSE THE POP MUSIC CLUB IS JUST SO MUCH MORE IMPOR-TANT...
PASS-ING THIS GRADE DOESN'T REALLY MATTER RIGHT NOW...
REALLY!?
AND I THINK WE MAY BE ABLE TO DO SOME-THING ABOUT YUI'S TESTS.
YUI...
HEY! TEACH-ER HERE!!
IT TURNS OUT THERE ARE SOME TEACHERS WHO AL-WAYS LEAVE THE EXAM ANSWER SHEETS IN THE FAC-ULTY ROOM OVERNIGHT ...
HUH?
THAT'S THE STUPIDEST THING I'VE EVER HEARD!

THE DAY THE TESTS CAME BACK
HIRA-SAWA.
BUT IT WAS A PRETTY TER-RIFYING JOKE...
OH COME ON, IT WAS JUST A JOKE. JUST KID-DING.
WHOA, HOW'D YOU DO?
HEY EVERY-ONE —!!
ANYWAY, THE ONLY OPTION WE HAVE AT THIS POINT IS TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN DO ...
THAT'S ACTU-ALLY FREAKY WEIRD !!
I PASSED BY ONE POINT IN ALL MY SUB-JECTS!
...AND EVEN IF IT DOES TURN OUT THAT YOU NEED TO TAKE A RETEST ...
NOT ME. I DIDN'T DO A THING.
DON'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T?
COM-PLETELY PASS-ING THE BUCK!!
WHAT D.D YOU EVEN COME HERE FOR?
...MIO-CHAN'S GONNA BE HERE TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU.

HM?
LA-LA-LAAAA.
THAT MIO... HERE IT'S LUNCH-TIME, AND WHERE THE HELL IS SHE...?
BUT AT LEAST THERE WERE NO RETESTS. I'M REALLY GLAD FOR THAT.
MAN... WE DID ALL THAT WOR-RYING YESTER-DAY FOR NOTHING.
RI... RITSU !?
WHOA, YOU'RE DOING SPECIAL VOCAL TRAINING TOO, LITTLE MISS MIO-SAN?
びくっ
JUMP
HM? THAT SOUND'S COMING FROM THE MUSIC ROOM...
...I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE GOOD IF I COULD WORK ON OVER-COMING MY OWN SHORT-COMINGS...
NO, WELL... IT'S JUST, SEEING YUI WORKING SO HARD LIKE THAT, I JUST COULDN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF SITT NG AROUND DO-ING NOTHING, SO...
ジャアア
JA-JANG
SURE, SURE.
ニヤ GRIN
ニヤ GRIN
B-BUT DON'T YOU DARE TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS!!
WOW... SHE'S WORK-ING SO HARD, SO EARLY IN THE MORN-ING!

AGAIN!!?
THAT'S THE SPIRIT, GIRLS!!
SLIDE
WOW, MORE SOUNDS COMING FROM THE MUSIC ROOM.
AFTER SCHOOL
OH NO...YOU DIDN'T GO MAKING US ANY MORE COSTUMES, DID YOU?
RUMMAGE
RUMMAGE
I BROUGHT A LITTLE SOME-THING GOOD FOR EVERYONE.
OH HI, RIT-CHAN.
PLA-PLING
THIS TIME IT'S YUI AND MUGI.
...AND IF WE HAVE TO DO ANY MORE SILLY COSPLAY, OUR MORALE'S GONNA DROP FOR SURE.
I'M SURE YOU WORKED VERY HARD ON THEM, SAWA-CHAN, BUT EVERYONE'S REALLY PUMPED UP RIGHT NOW...
.....
.....
WITH VOCAL-IZING AND EAR TRAINING
I THOUGHT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO BE OF SOME HELP TO YUI-CHAN.
GIMME.
...FINE. THEN I GUESS YOU WON'T BE NEEDING A SLEEPING BAG, EH, RIT-CHAN?
WHAT'S WITH YOU ALL OF A SUD-DEN!?
I CAN'T STAND BY ON THE SIDELINES ANYMORE—
ALL RIGHT, THEN! TONIGHT WE'RE GONNA STAY ALL NIGHT AND HAVE A CRASH PRACTICE SES-SION!!

KYAAAAH!
SLEEPING BAG ATTAAAACK!
HEY RITSU, DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S A LITTLE FAST?
REALLY? I LIKE IT BETTER THIS FAST 'COS I CAN GET INTO A GROOVE.
WE SURE DID.
WIGGLE
WIGGLE
YOU LOOK SO CUTE
YEAH... I WAS JUST GETTING CARRIED AWAY WHEN I SAID WE SHOULD STAY THE NIGHT, BUT WE REALLY GOT SOME GOOD PRACTICE IN, HUH?
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT... SAWA-CHAN, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WELL, BUT ISN'T IT HARDER FOR EVERYONE TO STAY TOGETHER WHEN ONE PERSON STARTS GOING TOO FAST?
YOU ACTUALLY SEEMED LIKE AN ADVISER FOR THE FIRST TIM—
AND YOU WERE A BIG HELP TODAY, SAWA-CHAN.
YEAH ...
NOT MUCH TIME LEFT BEFORE THE SHOW!
ZZZZ
SHE CAN SLEEP AT THE DROP OF A HAT!!
PLEASE GO HOME NOW.
WHAT THE HELL IS SHE TALKING ABOUT?
KYAH!
... WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IN TERMS OF EYE CANDY IF WE SHORTENED THESE SKIRTS A BIT?



...
LADIES!
♡
WEL-
COME
...

THIS YEAR I PASSED THE EXAMS TO GET INTO THE SAME SCHOOL AS MY BIG SISTER.
HI, THERE. MY NAME IS UI HIRA-SAWA.

THE POP MUSIC... CLUB?
PLEASE COME RIGHT THIS WAY...

...SO TODAY WE CAME TO SEE MY SISTER'S POP MUSIC CLUB IN ACTION BEFORE WE START HIGH SCHOOL OUR-SELVES.
SO CUTE!
ONE OF MY FRIENDS EX-PRESSED AN IN-TERESTIN THE POP MUSIC CLUB...

I'M SO GLAD THE TWO OF YOU CAME TO VISIT!
THIS IS MY BIG SISTER YUI.
RITSU-SAN AND TSUMUGI-SAN... YOU GUYS TOO?
WHOA-HO, IF IT AIN'T UI-CHAN AND HER FRIEND! THANKS FOR COMIN'!
NOT YET. LET'S LET IT STEEP A LITTLE MORE...
SHOULD I JUST POUR THEM SOME OF THIS TEA AND TAKE IT TO THEM?
...ME!!
HELP ...
FIDGET
FIDGET
WHOA... WHOA...
WHOA..
SHAKE
SHAKE
SFX: RATTLE RATTLE
DRAG
DRAG
AAAAH..!
HEY.
R... REALLY?
I'LL GO AHEAD AND TAKE CARE OF IT, ONEE-CHAN. YOU JUST SIT DOWN.
YEAH... BUT, UM...
SO SHE'LL BE OKAY..?
WE ALL HEARD YOU AND YOUR FRIEND'D BE COMING TO CHECK OUT THE CLUB TODAY, UI-CHAN, SO WE THOUGHT WE'D GIVE YOU GUYS A NICE WELCOME!

THIS IS TSUMUGI-SAN. SHE'S VERY LADY-LIKE AND EASY-GOING.
SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU GIRLS WAITING.
THIS IS RITSU-SAN, ONE OF MY SISTER'S FRIENDS.
I'M REALLY SORRY.
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, MAKING OUR GUESTS SERVE THE TEA?
REALLY? I'M SO GLAD.
WOW! THIS CAKE IS DELI-CIOUS...
HEY GALS. I'M RITSU, THE CLUB PRESI-DENT.
AHEM
HI THERE, RITSU-SAN.
SORRY ABOUT ALL THE RACKET.
RESISTANCE IS FUTILE!
WAAAAAAHN!
HEY RITSU !!
SLAM
HEH HEH HEH
AHHH
SHE'S JUST AS PRETTY AND WON-DERFUL AS I REMEM-BERED.
I'M SORRY. I'M SORRY.
YOU NEVER TURNED IN A REQUEST FOR PER-MISSION TO USE THE GYM—JUST LIKE LAST TIME!!

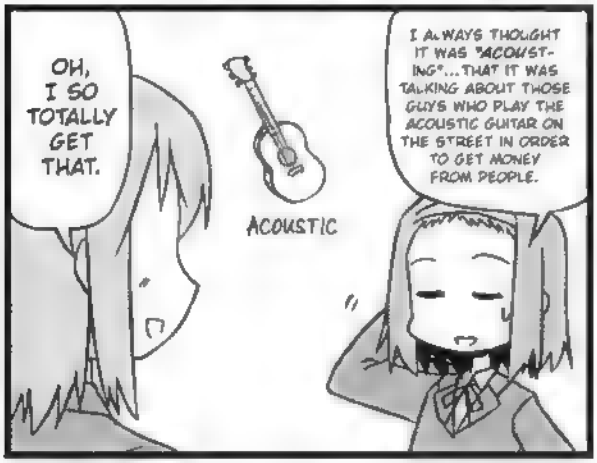
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THOSE OUTFITS?
OH, THESE?
AND THIS IS MIO-SAN. SHE SEEMS LIKE AN EXTREME-LY SHY PERSON.
OKAY, SHE'S ALL READY NOW.
OUR TEACHER SAWA-CHAN BROUGHT 'EM FOR US.
NO WAY !!
HEY, STOP HIDING ALREADY. COME ON OUT HERE.
? ? ?
STARE....
...MWUH?
BUT MIO-SAN, THAT LOOKS REALLY GOOD ON YOU.
I'M GOOD.
YOU WANNA TRY ONE ON?
SO CUTE ...!
...REALLY?
SSK

GOOD IDEA.
... SHOULD WE JUST CHANGE?
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA, SAWA-CHAN!
WHIP
びしっ
SINCE YOU GIRLS ARE HERE, HOW'D YOU LIKE TO SEE EVERY-ONE PER-FORM?
JERSEYS
...MIO-CHAN, THE STRAP KEEPS SNAGGING ON MY CLOTHES.
WOW!!
ジャアアン
JA-JAANG
THIS SKIRT REALLY GETS IN THE WAY...
THEY'RE REALLY COOL, BUT JERSEYS ...!!?
THEY ARE SO COOL!
WHOSE BRIGHT IDEA WAS IT TO WEAR MAID OUTFITS ANY-WAY!!?
ARGH!
KYAA!
DAMMIT!! IT'S TOO HARD TO PLAY LIKE THIS!!

THAT NIGHT
DID YOUR FRIEND SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE POP MUSIC CLUB?
UMM... SH-SHE SAID IT WAS "UNBE-LIEV-ABLE."
BE SURE TO COME AND SEE THE FRESHMAN ORIENTATION PERFORM-ANCE TOO!
SEE WHAT I MEAN!?
IT'S REALLY FUN, YOU KNOW, THE POP MUSIC CLUB!
...S-SO, WHAT'D YOU THINK? ABOUT THE POP MUSIC CLUB?
...IT WAS JUST UNBE-LIEVABLE IN SO MANY WAYS.
GLOW
...NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, ONEE-CHAN SEEMS A LOT MORE ALIVE SINCE SHE JOINED THE POP MUSIC CLUB.
STEP
STEP
HOW ABOUT YOU JOIN TOO, HUH, UI?
I'LL, UH... I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.
AH! BUT THAT CAKE WAS DELI-CIOUS!
Y-YEAH, IT WAS ...

I'M A BAGWORM!

I GIVE UP!
I GIVE UP!


OH, I SO TOTALLY GET THAT.
ACOUSTIC
I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WAS "ACOUST-ING"... THAT IT WAS TALKING ABOUT THOSE GUYS WHO PLAY THE ACOUSTIC GUITAR ON THE STREET IN ORDER TO GET MONEY FROM PEOPLE.

K-ON!

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR BOOK COMING OUT. KEEP ON WORKING HARD WHILE EATING NOTHING BUT CURRY!

—DAIOKI

AFTERWORD

HELLO, MY NAME IS KAKIFLY. I WANT TO THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART FOR BUYING THE FIRST VOLUME OF *K-ON!* THIS BOOK IS MY VERY FIRST MANGA COMPILATION! SOMEHOW IT STILL DOESN'T SEEM QUITE REAL...BUT IF YOU ENJOY IT EVEN JUST A LITTLE BIT, THEN NOTHING WOULD MAKE ME HAPPIER!

BY THE WAY, THE GUITARS YOU SEE IN THE PHOTO ON THE OPPOSITE PAGE ARE FROM MY OWN PERSONAL GUITAR COLLECTION. AND DID YOU HAPPEN TO NOTICE ANYTHING JUST A BIT UNUSUAL IN THE PHOTO? THAT'S RIGHT —— THE GUITARS ARE ALL LEFT-HANDED. AND NO, IT'S NOT A REVERSE-IMAGE PHOTO. THE WHOLE REASON WHY I MADE MIO LEFT-HANDED IN THIS SERIES IS BECAUSE I MYSELF AM LEFT-HANDED. I THINK IT'D BE REALLY GREAT IF ONE OF THESE DAYS I COULD MAKE A MANGA STORY AROUND THE IDEA OF GRUMBLING ABOUT WHAT A PAIN IT SOMETIMES IS TO BE LEFT-HANDED (LOL).

BEFORE I CLOSE, I'D LIKE TO THANK A FEW PEOPLE: MY EDITOR "S-HARA," WHO I'M CONSTANTLY MAKING TROUBLE FOR; MY FRIEND DAIOKI, WHO WAS KIND ENOUGH TO DRAW A FANTASTIC BONUS MANGA PAGE FOR THIS VOLUME AS A GUEST ARTIST; AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, YOU, THE READER, WHO DID ME THE HONOR OF BUYING THIS BOOK. THANKS VERY MUCH TO ALL OF YOU!

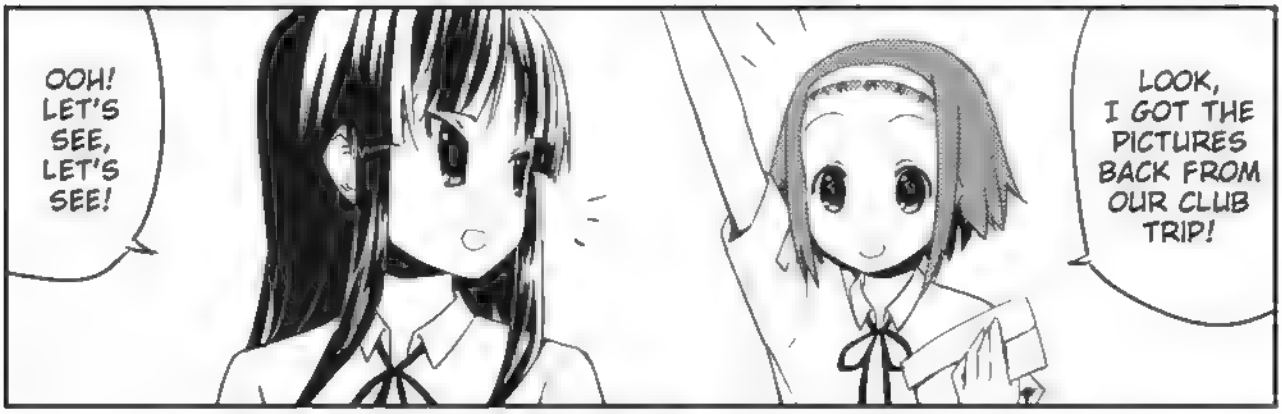
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN IN VOLUME 2!

KAKIFLY

kakifly

COMMENTS

Hi, my name is kakifly. One food I don't like is oysters. Thank you so much for buying my book.


OOH! LET'S SEE, LET'S SEE!
LOOK, I GOT THE PICTURES BACK FROM OUR CLUB TRIP!

NICE PICTURE, HUH?

BUT IT'S A DIGITAL CAMERA... THERE ARE NO NEGATIVES...
I WANT THOSE NEGATIVES...
OKAY, I GIVE UP...

トン
トン
CHOP
YOU REALLY HAVE THICK EYE-BROWS, DON'T YOU, MUGI-CHAN?
ポ
タ
STICK
PEEL
ACTU-ALLY, THEY'RE TAKUAN PICK-LES.
WANNA TRY ONE?
ポリ
CRUNCH
ポリ
CRUNCH
CHOMP
パク
ひょい
SWIPE
THEY'RE GOOD!!

work nor engaging in any productive but unpaid economic activity (such as housework).

PAGE 11

Johannes Krauser II

The scary-looking character Yui pictures is a parody of Johannes Krauser II, alter ego of Souichi Negishi, the main character of the manga *Detroit Metal City*. When in character, Souichi paints his face with white makeup and draws the word "殺" (KILL) as a fake tattoo on his forehead.

PAGE 16

Yen Conversion

A general rule of thumb to use for converting Japanese yen to American dollars is ¥100 to 1 USD. Thus, ¥5,000 is about $50. You can't even get a dirt-cheap guitar for that price. Most low-end guitars in the US start around $100, though high-end guitars can cost upward of $1,000.

PAGE 23

Yui's guitar

The guitar that Yui buys in this volume is a Gibson Les Paul Standard model with Honey Burst finish. This guitar retails for around $3,500 new in the US, so even the roughly $1,500 price tag Yui sees is a pretty good deal. Getting one for around $500 would be an incredible steal.

PAGE 25

Charumera Song

This is the tune played by mobile ramen vendors (similar in concept to ice cream trucks) to alert potential customers to their presence. It's usually a canned recording of a specific melody played on a shrill-toned double-reed woodwind instrument called a "*charumera*" in Japanese (from Portuguese *charamela* because the instrument was first brought to Japan by Portuguese missionaries), or "shawm" in English. Thus, the musical phrase "chalalii~lala~" is strongly associated with ramen trucks in Japan.

PAGE 28

Gifts

Gift-giving is a very important component of business etiquette in Japan, and since such gifts tend to pass from the bottom to the top in terms of corporate hierarchy, the people in positions of most power receive the most (and most expensive) gifts.

PAGE 31

Chords Even A Monkey Could Learn

This is a parody of the *...For Dummies* books in the US There are various *Saru Demo Wakaru...* (Even A Monkey Could...) books of the same ilk in Japan.

Musical Notation

The notation Yui sees in the chord practice book is called tablature. It's a kind of musical shorthand showing how to finger chords on fretted instruments.

PAGE 35

Class 1-B

"Class 1-B" shows that Ritsu is in the 10th-grade, second cohort. Japanese high school students don't move around from room to room and participate in different class groupings like US students do. Instead, they belong to a fixed "cohort" (*kumi*) that stays grouped in the same room all year, and teachers for each subject visit the room during the appropriate times.

PAGE 37

Harumi

This is a "cameo" of the character Harumi Hosono from manga author Daioki's four-panel manga *Harumi Nation*. *K-ON!* author kakifly and Daioki are friends as well as colleagues, and Daioki even drew the bonus manga page for this volume of *K-ON!* on page 117.

PAGE 43

Salty/Brackish

Ritsu says the water is "salty" (*shoppai*), but the same word is wrestling slang (especially sumo wrestling) for "weak" (because the wrestlers toss salt into the ring before each bout, so a losing wrestler who spends a lot of time on the floor gets covered in salt). "*Shoppai*" is also more general slang for "sad" (because tears are salty). In this case, Yui misunderstands what Ritsu says and then "corrects" her.

TRANSLATION NOTES

COMMON HONORIFICS

no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.

***-san*:** The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.

***-sama*:** Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.

***-kun*:** Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.

***-chan*:** An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.

***-senpai*:** Used to address upperclassmen or more experienced coworkers.

***-sensei*:** A respectful term for teachers, artists, or high-level professionals.

K-ON!

The title *K-ON!* comes from the Japanese word *"kei-ongaku,"* meaning "light music" in the sense of casual or easy listening (i.e., not serious or innovative as in serious classical or jazz). In the context of school clubs in Japan, the term *"kei-ongaku-bu"* ("light music club") usually contrasts with *"ongaku-bu"* ("music club") in that it focuses on popular forms of music (pop, rock, folk, etc.) where the latter focuses on symphonic and choral forms.

kakifly

The author's name, "kakifly," comes from the Japanese word *"kaki-furai,"* meaning "fried oysters." It seems to be a running joke, as the author comments for this and future volumes reference his feelings toward oysters.

PAGE 2

Yui Hirasawa

Yui's last name is an allusion to Susumu Hirasawa, founder and former guitarist for the now-defunct Japanese techno band, P-Model. Her first name means "only."

Mio Akiyama

Mio's last name is an allusion to Katsuhiko Akiyama, former bassist for P-Model. Her first name means "wake (of waves)."

Ritsu Tainaka

Ritsu's last name is an allusion to Sadatoshi Tainaka, former drummer for P-Model. Her first name means "meter (of rhythm)."

Tsumugi Kotobuki

Tsumugi's last name is an allusion to Hikaru Kotobuki, former keyboardist for P-Model. Her first name means "woven (silk) cloth."

Sawako Yamanaka

Sawako's first and last names are an allusion to Sawao Yamanaka, vocalist and rhythm guitarist for the Japanese alternative rock band, The Pillows.

Nodoka Manabe

Nodoka's last name is an allusion to Yoshiaki Manabe, lead guitarist for The Pillows. Her first name means "serene."

Ui Hirasawa

Ui's first name means "gloomy/vexing."

PAGE 3

Pop Music Club

"Pop Music Club" is literally "Light Music Club" (*"kei-ongaku-bu,"* used in the sense discussed in the note above), but in this context the term stands in contrast to classical/traditional music and refers to typical pop music.

PAGE 9

School Clubs

Participating in after-school clubs is a very big deal in Japanese high schools, as it's one of the only chances for students to interact outside their fixed class groups.

NEET

"NEET" is an acronym for "Not in Education, Employment, or Training." It's a technical term in both the UK and Japan, referring to the class of relatively young (defined as between the ages of 15 and 34 in Japan) individuals who are unemployed, not in any school or job training, and neither actively seeking

winter foods is a stereotypical winter scene in Japan.

PAGE 86

New Year's Breakfast Box

It's traditional to eat special New Year's box meals (collectively referred to as *osechi* food) for the first meal after the turn of the new year. Each element of the meal has some symbolic significance, so that eating it is supposed to bring good luck. Typical examples of *osechi* components are: *zoni* (sweet rice cake soup); *toso* (spiced saké); the traditional "three appetizers" of *kuromame* (black soybeans), *kazunoko* (herring roe), and *tataki gobo* (burdock root salad) or *tazukuri* (dried sardines); and various boiled vegetables (including lotus root, seaweed, pickled plums, etc). Many homes also incorporate various seafood elements like lobster, shrimp, red snapper, and so forth. The food tends to be arranged in a stack of boxes, each with individual compartments.

PAGE 89

Clang and Clap

When offering prayers at a Shinto shrine, it's usual to ring the bell (to summon the attention of the spirits) and then clap your hands together twice (for the same reason), holding them together after the second clap as you make your prayer.

PAGE 90

Tying Up Fortunes

If you draw a bad fortune at a Shinto shrine, the rule is that you have to tie it to a special string at the shrine (and under no circumstances take the fortune home with you!) so that the bad luck will stay at the shrine and not follow you home.

PAGE 101

Classroom Duties

In Japan it's common for students to perform many of the duties (often on a rotating basis) that would normally be handled by teachers in the US, such as taking roll and collecting test papers.

PAGE 107

Vocalizing and Ear Training

Both are technical musical terms related to singing. "Vocalizing" involves breath control, projection, timbre, and volume—in general, aspects contributing to the quality of vocal production when singing. "Ear training" is practice in hearing and reproducing the precise pitch intervals and timing of notes in a melody, sometimes involving sight-reading as well.

PAGE 109

Maid Café

Yui is greeting Ui and her friend like a waitress at a maid café would, all dressed up in a French maid outfit and using polite/formal language. Hence Ui's joke: "...Club" instead of "...Café" or something, which is what she's thinking.

PAGE 119

Guitar Photo

The guitars shown here (kakifly's own) are three left-handed Gibson Les Paul models, the same brand that Yui plays in the story.

PAGE 121

Takuan

Takuan pickles are made from daikon radishes. They usually acquire bright yellow coloring from the pickling process and are served in thick half-round slices (roughly the shape of Tsumugi's eyebrows.)

PAGE 58
Shredding
"Shredding" is guitar-player slang for playing lightning fast.

PAGE 58
Tapping
"Tapping" is a guitar technique involving sounding notes by hammering onto the frets with the fingertips (instead of sounding the strings while holding down on the frets in the usual manner). It was first popularized by rock guitarist Eddie Van Halen.

PAGE 58
Playing with Teeth
Playing with your teeth is a guitar stunt where the musician plucks the strings with the upper teeth. It was first performed by legendary blues guitarist T-Bone Walker but was later made popular by (and is most associated with) Jimi Hendrix.

PAGE 61
Mio's Song Lyrics
The song lyrics that Mio wrote were actually made into a song for the anime version of *K-ON!* and performed by the anime voice cast. And in case you're wondering, the Japanese lyrics sound every bit as silly as the English translation. That's why Ritsu gets goose bumps when she hears them aloud.

PAGE 63
Sawa-chan
The diminutive suffix *–chan* is an inappropriate form of address for one's teacher. Ritsu should address Sawako by last name, using the title *–sensei* instead, but Sawako doesn't really seem to mind much because she wishes she were a student again anyway.

PAGE 64
Yui's False Modesty
False modesty is a culturally accepted Japanese response in a situation like this. It would seem arrogant of Yui to immediately agree to be the lead singer (thereby implying that she thought she was the right choice all along), so she pretends to hem and haw in order to appear modest and encourage the others to work on "convincing" her, after which she will "reluctantly" accept the appointment. Of course it backfires here.

PAGE 69
"Friends since we were babies"
The word *osana-najimi* (literally "familiar at infancy") implies that they grew up in the same neighborhood and/or played together from the time of their earliest memories, before either was of school age.

PAGE 83
New Year's Shrine Visit
A New Year's shine visit (*hatsumode*) refers to the Japanese tradition of visiting one's local neighborhood Shinto shrine immediately after the change of the year. (Some people even wait in line so they can make their visit right after midnight.) This is done to offer prayers for health and prosperity in the new year and maybe also to pick a fortune (a piece of paper telling the visitor what their future prospects are) so they can either rest easy (if the fortune is "Good" or better) or take steps to avoid calamity (if the fortune is "Bad" or worse).

PAGE 84
Playing the Same Position
The phrase "same position" is a sports reference in Japanese (e.g., a position in baseball). In this case it means that Mio will have the same role vis-à-vis Ritsu—namely, being strung along by Ritsu's whims.

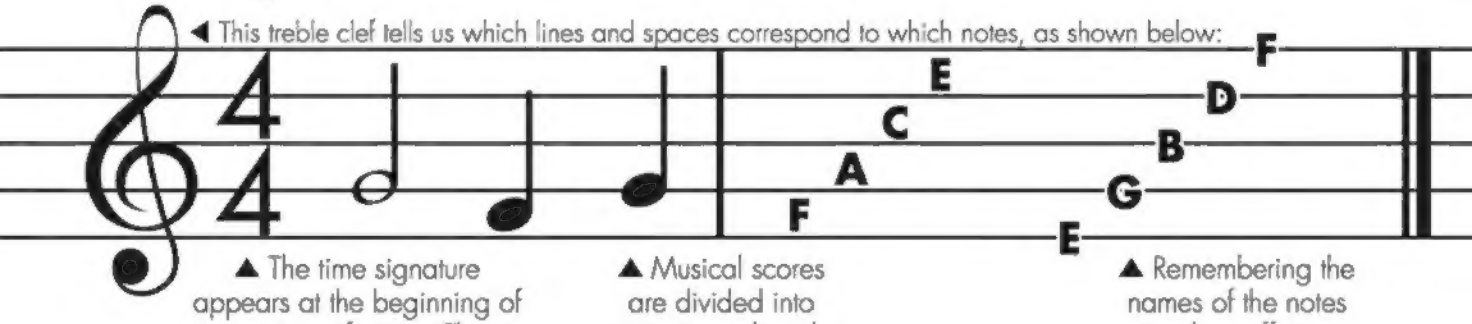
PAGE 85
New Year's Holiday
"New Year's holiday" ("*sanganichi*," literally "the three days") refers to the first three days of the new year, which are a national holiday in Japan.

Heated Table
The "heated table" (*kotatsu*) is a typical piece of furniture in Japanese sitting rooms. It's a small coffee table with a space heater mounted to the underside and quilted material draped around the sides to trap the heat in the space underneath. When people sit at the table, they place their legs inside the heated space to keep warm. Sitting around the heated table eating tangerines and other

Music Theory 101

Reading the Musical Staff:

◀ This treble clef tells us which lines and spaces correspond to which notes, as shown below:

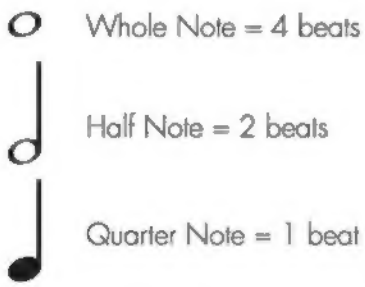


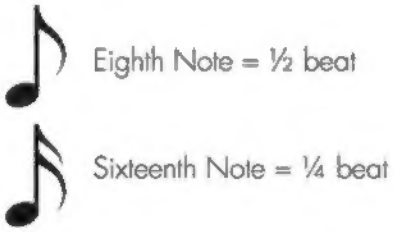
▲ The time signature appears at the beginning of every piece of music. The top number tells you how many beats per measure, the bottom number tells you which type of note gets one beat. (Think of one beat as one toe tap.) 4/4 is the standard time signature.

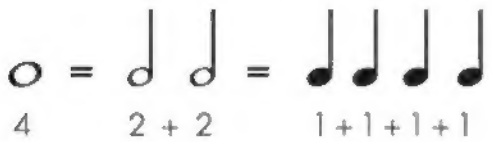
▲ Musical scores are divided into measures or bars by these barlines. The double bar signifies the end of a piece or section.

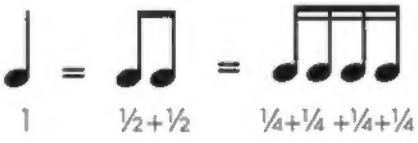
▲ Remembering the names of the notes on the staff is a breeze! The spaces spell "FACE," and for the lines, remember the acronym, "Every Good Boy Deserves Fudge."

Types of Musical Notes:

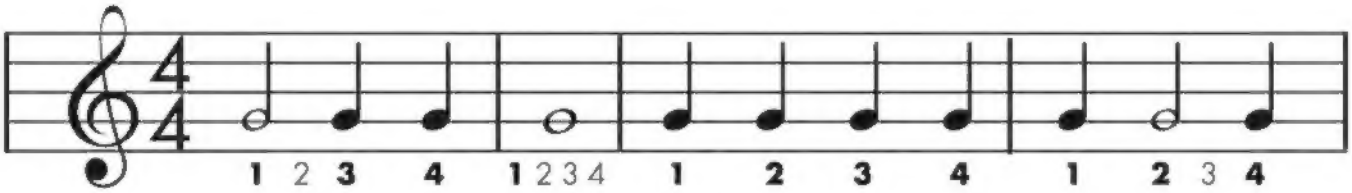


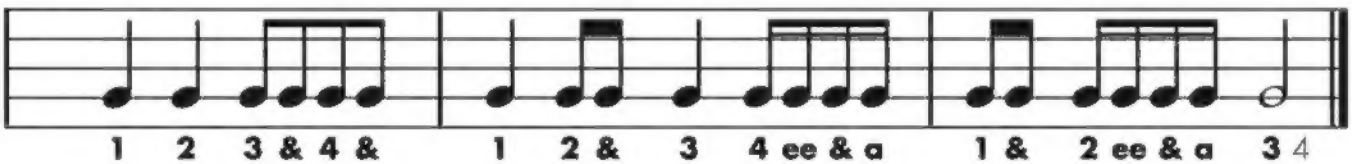




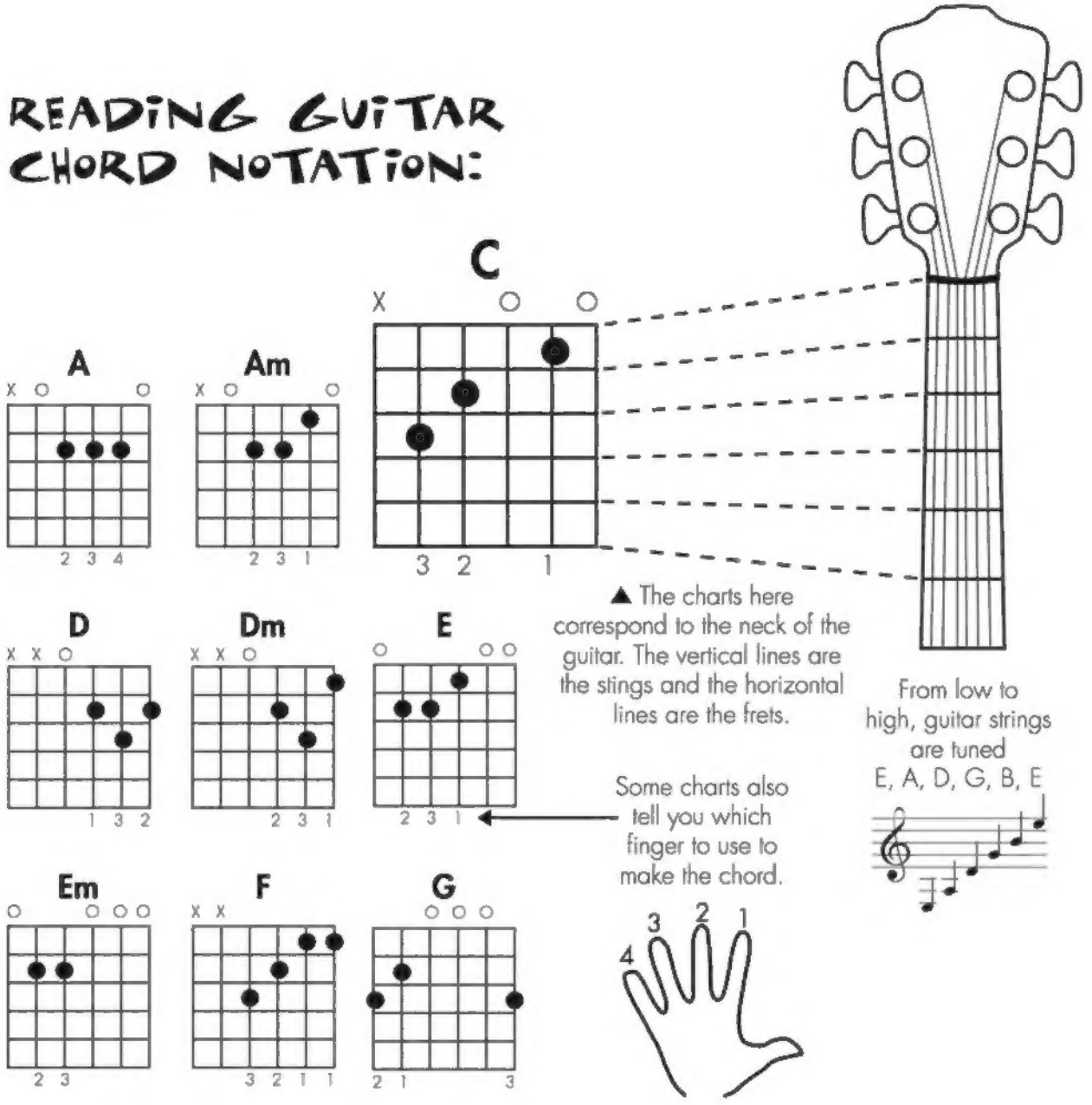


Get that foot tapping! Try clapping or humming the rhythm below:





READING GUITAR CHORD NOTATION: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A
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Em
F
G
▲ The charts here correspond to the neck of the guitar. The vertical lines are the strings and the horizontal lines are the frets.
Some charts also tell you which finger to use to make the chord.
From low to high, guitar strings are tuned E, A, D, G, B, E

Grab your guitar and try strumming this familiar tune!

G C G C G D G
Twinkle, twinkle little star, how I wonder what you are.

G C G D G C G D
Up above the world so high, like a diamond in the sky.

G C G C G D G
Twinkle, twinkle little star, how I wonder what you are.

See how many of your favorite pop songs you can play using the chords G, C, D, and Em! You'll be jamming in no time!

K-ON! ①

KAKIFLY

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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